WEIRD-SHOCKING-HORROR TALES

Terrors of Dracula

02960
MAY 1979
$1.75

THE BLOODSUCKING

VAMPIRE

HORROR TALES FROM DRACULA'S CREAKING COFFIN EXPLODE WITH TERROR FILLED SCREAMS IN A FRENZY OF FANGS, FLESH AND BLOOD

DRACULA'S WINGED CREATURES

The FLIES

THE BRIDE WITH FANGS

PLUS

- CAT OF DOOM
- THE FLESHRIPPER
- HORROR POOL

and other tales

Terrors of Dracula

MAY 1979 CONTENTS Vol. 1 No. 3

THE VAMPIRE 4
The incredible tale of a vampire whose lust for warm blood was overcome by an even greater force with a wooden stake.

THE FLESHRIPPER 10
Charged with an overwhelming desire for flesh, the thing that was once human dined on the gory being that was a man with its inners spread over the pavement like a feast.

VAMPIRE BRIDE 17
Who says there are no such things as descendents of Dracula? then read this bizarre tale of a bride turned vampire.

HORROR WITH FANGS 25
Strange things happen in the pitch dark of night as a Jekyl-Hyde thing slithers and slashes in a frenzy of high pitched bloody excitement.

THE MUMMIES 29
Three archeologists tamper with the unknown make a startling discovery in the Egyptian desert and then pay for their folly.

NEVER KILL A CORPSE 34
"...and why not?" spoke the sorcerer's apprentice as he tampered with powers from beyond only to be swept into a demon's vortex of unspeakable horror.

THE DEAD DEMONS 41
From the depths of Dracula's crypt loathsome creatures rose and began their ghoulish attack on the living.

POOL OF HORROR 47
The shadow of evil transforms a peaceful scene into a nightmare of hell.

THE VAMPIRE FLIES 53
Khan, the conqueror, had the power to destroy, terrify and still lusted for more until the day he came face-to-face with Dracula's flies.

CATS OF DOOM 60
Ruth Williams finds herself detained in a village where a cat cult reeks havoc.

TERRORS OF DRACULA is published quarterly by Modern Day Periodicals Inc., 79 Madison Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10016. The publisher assumes no responsibility for unsolicited material. Any resemblance to persons living or dead is purely coincidental. All rights reserved. Copyright © 1979 under Universal Copyright Conventions. Single copy price: $1.75. Application to mail at second class rate is pending at New York, New York. Printed in U.S.A.

VAMPIRE

OSCAR FRAGA

MY NAME IS WALTER FARNO. AS A WRITER OF SOME RENOWN, I AM ALSO AN INTENSE TRAVELER. COME WITH ME AS I TELL YOU MY STORY... I FIRST ARRIVED AT BELNOW IN THE PYRENEES DURING THE SPRING MONTHS. THE TOWN MAYOR GREETED ME WITH GUSTO...

AH, MONSIEUR FARNO! WELCOME! WELCOME TO OUR SMALL VILLAGE. I HOPE YOU WILL FIND YOUR STAY AN ENJOYABLE ONE!

I'M SURE I WILL, MONSIEUR MAYOR!

HERE YOU! CAREFUL WITH THAT BOX!

IT IS YOURS, MONSIEUR!?

CRASH

UH...YES! YOU SEE SIR, I'M NOT ONLY HERE ON A VACATION, BUT ALSO TO... UH... COLLECT THINGS! I AM AN AVID COLLECTOR! THAT BOX HOLDS MY... COLLECTION!
SO! BIEN! BELNOW HAS EVERYTHING AT YOUR DISPOSAL! NOW FOLLOW ME, MONSIEUR!
BELNOW GREETED ME WITH OPEN ARMS! IT WASN'T OFTEN THAT A FAMOUS WRITER CAME TO VISIT THEM. BUT MY PURPOSE WAS NOT FOR A REST. YOU SEE, I HAD ONLY TOLD THE MAYOR HALF THE TRUTH. THAT NIGHT AT MY INN, I MET THE VILLAGERS...
YOUNG PAUL IS A HERCULES, IS HE NOT, MONSIEUR?
THAT HE IS, MONSIEUR!
THAT IS ENOUGH FOR TONIGHT, MY FRIENDS! I MUST GO BACK TO MY BLACKSMITH'S SHOP TO WORK! I'LL SEE YOU TOMORROW!
GOOD NIGHT, PAUL!
OH, PAUL! MAY I WALK ALONG WITH YOU? I'D LIKE A BIT OF FRESH AIR!
COME ALONG, MONSIEUR FARNO! IT IS A PRIVELEGE!
WE WALKED ALONG TOGETHER... THEN WHEN THE FOREST BECAME DENSE... AND THE FULL MOON REACHED ITS PEAK... I STOPPED...
THEN... OF COURSE... I COULDN'T HELP MYSELF! THERE WAS NO USE DENYING THE INEVITABLE...
WHY DO YOU STOP, MONSIEUR? ARE YOU TIRED?
NO, PAUL, NOT TIRED! JUST HUNGRY!
MONSIEUR... Y...YOU'RE CH... CHANGING! LET ME OUT OF HERE!
I CAN'T, PAUL! TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH, I'M FAMISHED!

HE MADE A FUTILE ATTEMPT TO ELUDE ME, BUT OF COURSE I WAS SO MUCH STRONGER! EVEN THIS GIANT COULDN'T STOP A VAMPIRE!
WHAT WARM SWEET BLOOD, PAUL! IT HEARTENS ME GREATLY! HA! HA!
AND THE NEXT AFTERNOON, I MET MAYOR LAFARGE IN THE INN-SALOON. HE WAS VERY DISTURBED.
PAUL HAS BEEN KILLED, MONSIEUR FARNO! YOU WERE SEEN WITH HIM LAST...
BUT I LEFT HIM IMMEDIATELY! HOW COULD SUCH A YOUNG GIANT BE OVERPOWERED AND KILLED?
THAT ALSO PUZZLES ME! AND THAT IS WHY YOU HAVE BEEN ABSOLVED OF ALL GUILT! FORGIVE ME, BUT WE ARE SUSPICIOUS OF EVERYONE! OH, I WANT YOU TO MEET MY DAUGHTER DESIRE!
CHARMED!
CONTRARY TO POPULAR BELIEF, VAMPIRES ARE LIKE ORDINARY PEOPLE... THAT IS TO SAY, THEY CAN GO OUT DURING THE DAYTIME. BUT, OF COURSE, THEY DO HAVE ABNORMAL APPETITES, AND MINE WAS GROWING AGAIN!
IT IS A HORRIBLE THING, IS IT NOT, MONSIEUR? I KNEW PAUL VERY WELL! WHO WOULD DO SUCH A THING? HIS NECK WAS... IT WAS AWFUL!
PLEASE DON'T LET IT MAKE YOU OVERWROUGHT, DESIRÉ! A PRETTY GIRL LIKE YOU NEEDS LAUGHTER AND GAIETY!
IN THE DAYS THAT FOLLOWED I CULTIVATED THIS WONDERFUL GIRL'S FRIENDSHIP. PICNICS, DAYS ON THE BEACH, DANCING!
PARDON ME, OLD MAN! CAN YOU TELL ME WHERE THE ROAD TO BELNOW IS? I SEEM TO BE LOST!
IT IS NOT FAR FROM HERE! YOU JUST...

YOU GO THREE KILOMETERS TO RUE CHAMPLAIN... T-THEN...Y-YOU...
YES? GO ON! SOMETHING WRONG, OLD MAN?

HA! HA! HA!
MONSIEUR! YOUR HANDS! YAAAAHHHH!

I WENT HOME, MY GAIETY BUBBLING OVER! THE NEXT MORNING OVER THE BREAKFAST TABLE...
I JUST HEARD THE NEWS! THIS IS TERRIBLE! SOMETHING MUST BE DONE!
IT WAS MY GRANDPERE, I LOVED HIM, (SOB)!

HER GRANDFATHER? NO! IT COULD NOT BE I EXCLAIMED TO MYSELF, BUT THE FACTS WERE NOT TO BE DENIED! AND DESIRE COULD BE NEXT!
WHAT SHALL I DO? I DON'T WANT TO KILL DESIRE AS WELL! BUT MY OVERWHELMING DESIRE FOR BLOOD LEAVES ME WEAK!

NEVERTHELESS I HAD TO KEEP UP A PRETENSE. I ORGANIZED A SEARCH PARTY TO CAPTURE THE "MURDERER" AND THE POOR SIMPLE PEASANTS FELL ALONG WITH MY PLANS...
YES! WE WILL HANG HIM ONCE WE CATCH HIM!
COME! WE MUST FIND THIS MAN! HE IS PROBABLY HIDING IN THE FOREST!

WE'LL SPLIT UP SO THAT WE MAY SEARCH MORE EASILY! I WILL TAKE THE CENTER ROUTE!
BIEN! WE WILL GO TO THE RIGHT AND LEFT OF YOU, MONSIEUR!

MOMENTS LATER...
LOOK THERE, MONSIEUR LE MAYOR, QUICKLY!
EH? WHERE?
OH...I'M AFRAID YOU MISSED HIM! HE WAS A LITTLE TOO FAST FOR YOU!
NONSENSE! I THINK I SEE SOMETHING...
AIEEEEEEEEEEEE!
THE ONLY THING YOU SAW WAS YOUR IMAGINATION! NOW YOU SHALL REALLY SEE HIM! HA! HA!
I ATTENDED TO MY BUSINESS QUICKLY. THEN WITHOUT WASTING ANOTHER MOMENT, I TORE MY CLOTHES, SLASHED MY FACE, ...AND RAN BACK TOWARD THE MAIN BODY!
HELP! HELP! THE MAYOR! HE'S BEEN ATTACKED BY...BY A VAMPIRE! I BARELY ESCAPED!
IT'S MONSIEUR FARNO! SACRE BLEU! WE MUST FIND THE CREATURE!
OH- WALTER- WALTER MY DARLING! YOU... YOU ARE ALIVE! I HEARD THE MENS SHOUTS! FATHER IS...IS...?
YES, DEAR! THIS IS A HORRIBLE NIGHTMARE! WE MUST LEAVE THIS ACCURSED PLACE!
I SHOULD HAVE EXULTED IN MY CUNNING, BUT I WAS TORN BY THE BITTER ANGUISH OF MY EVIL! DESIRE NOW MEANT MORE TO ME THAN LIFE ITSELF! BUT SHE WAS THE ONLY ONE LEFT OF THAT PRECIOUS BLOOD!
I-I WOULD RATHER KILL MYSELF FIRST! I'LL FIND ANOTHER VICTIM! YES,... THAT'S IT!

THAT NIGHT I STALKED A PRETTY YOUNG THING WHO LIVED NEAR THE VILLAGE...TO BLOT OUT THE TEMPTATION OF KILLING DESIRÉ!
DON'T BE ALARMED, MY CHILD! IT WILL HURT BUT A MOMENT!
BUT THAT NIGHT I WAS CARELESS!
DID HE SEE ME? I WONDER!
WHAT IS IT YOU WANT?
BEG PARDON, SIR! BUT DESIRÉ LAFARGE IS DOWNSTAIRS. SHE GAVE ME THIS NOTE!
YOU MAY LEAVE! THANK YOU!
I SAW THE SHEER FRIGHT IN THE MORTALS EYES! THEN I KNEW I HAD BEEN FOUND OUT! I OPENED DESIRÉ'S NOTE!
Y-YES!
"DARLING, TAKE ME AWAY... I LOVE YOU! WE CAN BE MARRIED AND BE TOGETHER ALWAYS! I WAIT FOR YOUR ANSWER. DESIRE"
SWEET DESIRÉ! I SHALL NEVER HARM YOU!
DESIRÉ... COME UP QUICKLY! I'VE CAUGHT THE VAMPIRE! DO EXACTLY AS I SAY. TAKE A LARGE WOODEN STAKE FROM THE STOVE. YOU MUST KILL IT AS IT LIES IN ITS COFFIN!
THEN I KNEW WHAT TO DO! THE INN-PORTER WOULD BE SUMMONING HIS FELLOW BUMPKINS... AND MY SWEETHEART WAS DOWN BELOW SO I RUSHED TO THE WINDOW IMMEDIATELY.
Y-YES...
I EXERTED EVERY OUNCE OF MY HYPNOTIC POWER, FOR SHE WOULD NEVER DO IT OF HER OWN FREE WILL!... REALIZING WHO AND WHAT I WAS BEFORE SHE COULD KILL ME. I HEARD THE DOOR OPEN...
QUICKLY! YOU MUST PLUNGE IT DOWN AS HARD AS YOU CAN!
YES...
DESIRÉ, I SHALL LOVE YOU ALWAYS!
SOMEDAY... SHE WILL UNDERSTAND... SOMEDAY... SHE WILL PITY ME!
THE END

IT'S LITTLE MORE THAN AN ANIMAL BECAUSE IT WAS ONCE A MAN. BUT IT'S ALIVE AND COLD AND HUNGRY--- AND COMPLETELY WITHOUT A SOUL!

THE FLESH RIPPER

1:45 A.M. THE DISCOVERY!
THESE ARE THE NEW ARRIVALS, KLING! THEY'RE NOT A NOISY BUNCH, BUT, THEY DON'T GET IN YOUR HAIR EITHER!
I HOPE NOT! BEING NEW HERE, I'M A BIT SENSITIVE ABOUT THAT KIND OF PROSPECT!
YOU'LL TAKE IT ALL IN STRIDE, KLING! YOU'LL DO PLENTY OF READING AND THINKING AND YOU'LL BECOME A PHILOSOPHER LIKE ME! THE DEAD WANT NOTHING FROM YOU! AND WHAT'S MORE, THEY CAN BE TRUSTED!
LOOK AT THIS GIRL! BEAUTIFUL, ISN'T SHE? IN LIFE SHE MIGHT HAVE CHEATED ON YOU. NOW YOU CAN TRUST HER. SHE IS COMPLETELY GOOD!
WELL... OUR MOST RECENT GUEST HE STOPPED TICKING AT 10:35! HIS OPERATION DIDN'T GO TOO WELL!
ONLY THIRTY-FIVE YEARS OLD! HE MUST HAVE FELT CHEATED! I WONDER IF WE CAN TELL BY THE EXPRESSION ON HIS FACE...
KLING... IT'S ALIVE! IT'S ALIVE!
GREAT SCOTT! IT'S MOVING LOOK OUT! IT'S

AT 2:10 A.M. ONE OF THE MORGUE ATTENDANTS HAS BEEN FOUND IN A POOL OF HIS OWN BLOOD! THE OTHER IS BEING TREATED FOR CUTS AND SHOCK
THIS IS ONE FOR THE BOOK, PULASKI! THE LIEUTENANTS GOING TO FIGURE THIS ONE OUT ALL BY HIMSELF! IF HE DOES, I'LL PIN A CAPTAIN'S BADGE ON HIM MYSELF!
WHAT A MESS! I WONDER WHAT HE FOUND OUT FROM THE HEAD SAW-BONES OF THIS HOSPITAL? THEY'RE STILL IN CONFERENCE!
LOOKS LIKE THE POWWOW IS OVER! THERE'S THE LIEUTENANT NOW!
THAT CAN'T BE HIM! HE LOOKS PUZZLED! IF HE HASN'T GOT A LEAD, WE'RE IN FOR A ROUGH NIGHT!
WHAT'S THE STORY, LIEUTENANT? DID THE SURGEON GIVE YOU A LINE ON THE KILLER?
YEAH! I'VE GOT A COMPLETE DESCRIPTION OF HIM! NAME, COLOR, HEIGHT, AGE, WEIGHT THE WORKS RIGHT DOWN TO THE FINGERNAILS! ONLY I'M NOT PATSY ENOUGH TO SEND OUT AN ALARM ON HIM!
BECAUSE A GUY WHO'S BEEN DEAD FOR THREE HOURS DOESN'T GET UP OFF A MORGUE SLAB TO COMMIT HOMICIDE! DEAD MEN DON'T DO THOSE THINGS!
FOR PET'S SAKE, WHY NOT?

YOU MEAN ONE OF THE CORPSES IS SUPPOSED TO HAVE..
THE ATTENDANT WHO SURVIVED MADE THE STATEMENT TO THE MEN WHO FOUND HIM BEFORE HE PASSED OUT!
HOGWASH! THIS JOINT PROBABLY DROVE HIM NUTS! HE RAN AMOK... KILLED HIS PARTNER ON DUTY... TORE UP THE PLACE AND HIMSELF AS WELL! THAT'S HOW I SEE IT!
COULD BE! BUT THERE'S A CORPSE MISSING! IT'S NUMBER 427! I'VE CHECKED! WHAT DID KLING DO WITH IT?.. MAIL IT TO HIS AUNT IN DENVER?
THAT WOULD MAKE MORE SENSE THAN PINNING THIS ON A CORPSE, WOULDN'T IT?
I'M THINKING ABOUT SOMETHING THAT SURGEON TOLD ME, SOMETHING THAT COULD MAKE SENSE.. AW... LET'S GET TO WORK!
IT IS 2.27 A.M.... THE HORROR BEGINS! MR. & MRS. HOWARD GALT, LEAVING A LATE PARTY, ARE SET UPON AND BRUTALLY MURDERED BY AN UNKNOWN ASSAILANT!
AT 2:35 A.M THE CROSS-TOWN BUS STOPS AT THE CORNER OF MICHAEL ST. AND FOURTH AVE 'THE ONLY PEOPLE AT THE BUS STOP ARE AN OLD MAN AND A PRETTY GIRL OF TWENTY! THEY ARE SPRAWLED IN DEATH, THE VICTIMS OF WANTON KILLING...
2 50 A.M. PATROLMAN FRANK GENARO WALKING HIS BEAT ON COLEBRIDGE SQUARE IS ATTRACTED BY THE TERRIFIED SCREAMS OF A WOMAN... BEING CHASED BY A MAN WHO IS UNDAUNTED BY THE OFFICERS APPROACH..
HELP ME, OFFICER! HE WANTS TO KILL ME! HE'S CRAZY!
ALL RIGHT, YOU! IF YOU DON'T STOP, I'LL SHOOT!

PATROLMAN GENARO FIRES ONE SHOT OVER THE MAN'S HEAD! THE FUGITIVE UTTERS A CRY OF FRIGHT AND BOLTS FOR THE SHADOWS! OFFICER GENARO GIVES CHASE BUT LOSES HIM IN THE DARKNESS!
3:13 A.M. FRED KIMMEL IS AWAKENED BY RASPING SOUNDS OUTSIDE SOMETHING LIES HUDDLED IN A SHADOWY CORNER OF THE FIRE ESCAPE!
WHEN HE RAISES THE SASH A LARGE AND BEAST-LIKE FORM HURTLES PAST KIMMEL INTO THE YARD BELOW...
3 30 A.M. THE DECISION! IT IS MADE BY THE GRIM UNSMILING MEN OF THE POLICE HOMICIDE DETAIL!
I SEE YOU'VE GOT MORE REPORTS. WHERE DID IT HAPPEN THIS TIME?
HONEST, LIEUTENANT! I COULD UNDERSTAND IT IF A TIGER DID IT! BUT THIS IS A MAN AND HE ATTACKS ON SIGHT!
LOOK AT 'EM! THREE MORE CASES IN AS MANY MINUTES! HOMICIDE! ASSAULT! AND THIS ONE... IT MAKES YOU SICK TO READ IT!
HE'S ROAMING THIS AREA, AND I'VE GOT IT BLOCKED OFF AS EFFECTIVELY AS I CAN! IF HE TRIES TO SLIP THROUGH, THE BOYS WILL GET HIM!
SUPPOSE HE FINDS A RAT HOLE AND STAYS PUT! WE'LL HAVE TO MOVE IN ON HIM.. SEARCH EVERY CRACK IN THE WALL IN THAT ENTIRE DISTRICT! IT MAY TAKE THE WHOLE FORCE TO DO IT!
NO! WE'VE GOT TO DRAW HIM OUT AND KILL HIM BEFORE DAWN! THERE WILL BE KIDS ON THOSE STREETS AT DAYLIGHT! C'MON, IT'S GOT TO BE NOW!

3. 3:8 A.M. THE HUNT! ALL TRAFFIC ON EASTERN BOULEVARD HAS BEEN REROUTED! ONLY THE POLICE CARS PROWL THE EERILY EMPTY STREETS!
A HUGE FIRE SUDDENLY BLAZES INTO BEING WHERE 65TH ST BISECTS EASTERN BOULEVARD! WAVES OF HEAT PENETRATE THE FROSTY AIR!
WHAT MAKES YOU THINK THIS WILL DO THE TRICK, LIEUTENANT? IT MAY ONLY SCARE HIM AWAY!
NOT IF I HAVE HIM PEGGED RIGHT! I DON'T THINK HE HAS THE BRAINS TO SMELL A TRAP! BUT HIS EYES CAN SEE THE FIRE AND HIS BODY CAN FEEL THE COLD! I'M COUNTING ON BOTH TO BRING HIM TO US!
READ THE PAPERS LATELY. ABOUT A GUY IN MAINE WHO DIED AFTER AN OPERATION
YEAH, CAME BACK TO LIFE TEN MINUTES LATER COULDN'T REMEMBER HIS ADULT YEARS!
IN THE PROCESS OF DYING HIS BRAIN CELLS WERE DAMAGED! WHEN HE CAME BACK TO LIFE HE THOUGHT HE WAS A LITTLE BOY!
LIEUTENANT, YOU DON'T MEAN YOU BELIEVE THAT SURGEONS STORY ABOUT THIS KILLER BEING.
THE MISSING CORPSE? I DON'T KNOW! I... I'M DESPERATE! I WANT TO STOP THESE MURDERS! THAT'S WHY I'M GAMBLING THAT A DEAD MAN CAME BACK TO LIFE WITHOUT THE MEMORY OF EVER BEING HUMAN!
4. 0:8 A.M. THE QUARRY AND THE KILL!
SHADES OF THE DEVIL! THERE HE IS SKULKING AROUND THAT CORNER!
I SEE HIM! TELL THE BOYS TO HOLD THEIR FIRE! I WANT HIM WELL OUT IN THE OPEN!
SHOOT! DON'T LET HIM GET AWAY!
BANG!
BANG!

4:08 A.M. THE HORROR ENDS AS THE FIRE ROARS AND THRUSTS AN ANGRY FLAME AT THE SKY!

VAMPIRES BRIDE

WHEN CHRIS LEFT, A STRANGE FEELING CAME OVER NADYA SUDDENLY..
WHAT IS HAPPENING TO ME? SOME STRANGE POWER IS COMING OVER ME! THE VAMPIRE CURSE! COULD IT BE? NO! NO!
AS THE CLOCK STRUCK MIDNIGHT ON HER TWENTY-FIRST BIRTHDAY, NADYA WAS DRAWN TO THE LIBRARY LIKE SOMEONE POSSESSED!
THE BATS! THEY ARE COMING ALIVE! NO! RELINQUISH YOUR HOLD ON ME, YOU THINGS OF EVIL!
THEN, A SUDDEN TRANSFORMATION..
SO, IT IS TRUE! I SHARE A COMMON HERITAGE WITH THESE FOUL OMENS OF DEATH! OH, CHRIS-- WHAT WILL BECOME OF OUR LOVE?
THAT NIGHT, NADYA THIRSTING FOR BLOOD, PROWLED THE COUNTRYSIDE...
I'LL CUT ACROSS MY FIELDS, DUSAN! TOMORROW I MUST BE UP EARLY TO HARVEST MY GRAIN!
AY! YOU ARE MUCH TOO ANXIOUS TO BE A RICH MAN! GOOD NIGHT!
BUT THE ILL FATED MAN WAS DESTINED NEVER TO HARVEST AGAIN!
AT LAST! MY BEING QUIVERS WITH THIRST! MY PETS, YOU SHALL HAVE YOUR WAY.
AAGH!

THE NEXT DAY, NEWS OF THE BRUTAL KILLING SPREAD THROUGH THE VILLAGE
I AM GIVING NOTICE, MISTRESS! I WANT TO RETURN TO MY OWN VILLAGE! NO ONE IS SAFE WITH A VAMPIRE LOOSE!
NONSENSE! THAT'S JUST A FOOLISH SUPERSTITION! A MAN HAS BEEN MURDERED! THAT'S ALL!
NADYA, ARE YOU ALRIGHT?
OF COURSE, CHRIS! WHAT IS ALL THIS UPROAR ABOUT?
THE VILLAGE IS ARMING TO TRACK DOWN THE VAMPIRE! SOME ANCIENT CURSE HAS COME ALIVE AGAIN!
SURELY YOU DON'T BELIEVE THIS LEGEND, CHRIS!
I MUST FLEE! SOME OLD CRONE IS SURE TO REMEMBER THE CURSE THAT IS ON MY FAMILY!
CHRIS, LET'S LEAVE FOR FRANCE AT ONCE!
THERE'S A DANUBE BOAT LEAVING AT ONCE! WE CAN BE MARRIED BY THE CAPTAIN, DARLING! PACK AND BE READY TONIGHT!
THAT NIGHT...
I'M MARRIED TO THE MOST BEAUTIFUL WOMAN IN HUNGARY, DARLING!
I DON'T WANT TO HEAR ABOUT HUNGARY ANY MORE, CHRISTY! I'VE LEFT THE PAST BEHIND ME! MY FUTURE DESTINY LIES IN FRANCE NOW!
NADYA WAS DETERMINED TO LEAVE THE PAST BEHIND HER...
THERE, STAY WITH MY ANCESTORS! I HAVE PAID MY DEBT TO MY HERITAGE! NOW I SHALL BUILD A NEW LIFE WITH CHRIS! NO MORE SHALL THESE BATS LURE ME INTO FOUL DEEDS!

BUT IF NADYA HAD LOOKED BACK, SHE WOULD HAVE SEEN HER DESTINY FOLLOWING IN THE WAKE OF THE SHIP...
BY THE WAY, DARLING, I HOPE YOU DIDN'T PACK THOSE HORRIBLE STATUES!
NO! I KNEW HOW YOU DISLIKED THEM, SO I LEFT THEM BEHIND!
CUSTOM OFFICE
LATER, AT CHRIS'S HOME IN PARIS...
I LOVE YOUR HOME, CHRIS! I'VE UNPACKED COMPLETELY AND REARRANGED THE LIVING ROOM!
I WANT IT JUST THE WAY YOU DO, DARLING!
BUT THERE WAS AN UNWELCOME ADDITION TO THE LIVING ROOM. THE VAMPIRE BATS HAD COME HOME...
I THOUGHT YOU'D LEFT THOSE EVIL LOOKING STATUES BEHIND!
AIEEE! THEY HAVE PURSUED ME!
OH, THE MANSERVANT MUST HAVE PACKED THEM AGAINST MY INSTRUCTIONS!
BUT NADYA RECKONED WITHOUT THE POWER OF THE FOUL CREATURES WHO HELD HER SOUL CAPTIVE! THAT NIGHT...
AIEEE! THEY'VE COME FOR ME! I-I CANNOT RESIST THEM!
A MONTH PASSED HAPPILY. NADYA BEGAN TO HOPE THAT THE BATS WERE IMMOBILIZED FOREVER. BUT THERE WAS A GROWING RESTLESSNESS IN HER AS THE MOON MOVED TO A PREDESTINED POSITION...
WHAT A WONDERFUL MOONLIT NIGHT, NADYA! WHY SO SILENT?
IT'S NOTHING, DARLING!
I FEEL THIS STRANGE CRAVING TO PROWL WITH MY KINGMEN! IF I LOVE CHRIS I MUSTN'T GIVE IN! I MUSTN'T!

THE BLOODLUST WAS ON NADYA! URGED EVER ON BY THE UNSPEAKABLE THINGS OF EVIL, SHE PROWLED THE STREETS OF PARIS FOR A VICTIM TO SATE THEIR DESIRE...
ENJOY THE FUN, MY PETS! HE ALMOST DIES OF FRIGHT!
AARGH!
MERCY! THAT HIDEOUS CREATURE!
A VAMPIRE!
A HUE AND CRY WAS RAISED THROUGHOUT PARIS WHEN, IN THE DAWN THE BLOODLESS CORPSE WAS FOUND!
BY THE WAY, LEFEVRE I HAVEN'T HAD THE PLEASURE OF MEETING YOUR WIFE!
BUT OF COURSE! COME HOME WITH ME TONIGHT FOR DINNER!
THAT NIGHT..
IT WAS NICE OF YOU TO COME FOR DINNER!
MY PLEASURE MADAME! I WAS MOST ANXIOUS TO MEET YOU!
THIS IS THE MOST HEINOUS CRIME I'VE EVER SEEN, LEFEVRE! IF I WERE SUPERSTITIOUS, I WOULD ALMOST BELIEVE THE GIRL...
I SAW SUCH A CRIME... IN HUNGARY THIS SUMMER WHEN I WAS COURTING!

WHERE YOU COME FROM THERE ARE MANY STORIES ABOUT VAMPIRES. TELL US ABOUT THEM!
JUST SILLY LEGENDS, MONSIEUR! ONLY THE PEASANTS BELIEVE THEM!
HE LOOKS AT ME SO STRANGELY! CAN HE POSSIBLY SUSPECT?
EH? THESE ARE CERTAINLY AN ODD PAIR!
HE DOES SUSPECT! HE MUST DIE! CHRIS MUST NEVER KNOW THE TRUTH ABOUT ME! HE WOULD HATE ME-- I COULD NOT ENDURE THAT!
EVIL MUST BE FOLLOWED BY EVIL TO SURVIVE! THAT NIGHT, AS CHIEF OF POLICE BLANC SAT IN HIS LIBRARY...
YOUR SUSPICION WAS JUSTIFIED! YOU HAVE SOLVED YOUR CASE, BUT YOU WON'T LIVE TO REVEAL MY SECRET!
THIS BOOK CONTAINS THE HISTORY OF HUNGARY'S VAMPIRES! IT'S ONLY A HUNCH, BUT THAT GIRL-- THOSE BATS! I'M AFRAID EVIL LURKS IN LEFEVRE'S HOUSE!
YOU NEED CHECK NO FURTHER, MONSIEUR!
YOU! VAMPIRE!
WHEN SHE RETURNED THAT NIGHT, NADYA KEPT HER TALISMEN IN HER ROOM, LEST SOMEONE ELSE SUSPECT HER FEARFUL SECRET...
FOUL THING OF THE NIGHT! UGH!
WE WILL DRINK DEEP, KINSMEN! WE WILL BE RENEWED WITH THE BLOOD OF THIS ENEMY!
TONIGHT YOU SEEM MORE BEAUTIFUL THAN EVER, DARLING! BUT I FEEL AS IF THOSE CREATURES STARE AT ME WHENEVER I KISS YOU!
DON'T BE SILLY, DARLING, THEY'RE ONLY STATUES!

HORROR SPREAD THROUGH PARIS WITH THE NEWS OF THE CELEBRATED DETECTIVE'S MURDER. PEOPLE BARRED THEIR DOORS AT NIGHT, AFRAID TO GIVE ENTRANCE TO ANYONE. MEMBERS OF THE GUARD PATROLLED THE STREETS SEEKING THE VAMPIRE. NADYA GREW RESTLESS AS THE FULL MOON SHONE OVER THE CITY, THEN...
LALALA, TRES JOLIE!
NOW, WHILE HIS SENSES ARE DRUGGED, I'LL QUENCH MY BURNING THIRST!
YIEEEE! HELP!
THE BEAST! THERE IT IS!
DRIVEN OFF BY THE SHINING STEEL, NADYA FLED.
IT WENT THAT WAY!
SPREAD OUT AND SEARCH! KEEP YOUR BAYONETS DRAWN IF YOU VALUE YOUR LIVES! THE THING THIRSTS FOR BLOOD!
NADYA THOUGHT SHE WAS SAFE ONCE SHE GAINED THE SECURITY OF HER ROOM. BUT STILL THE BLOOD LUST BOILED WITHIN HER!
I GROW WEAK! AND MY PETS ARE DYING! I MUST BE RENEWED BEFORE THIS NIGHT IS OVER!
THE VICIOUS BATS DREW NADYA TO THE CHAMBER WHERE UNSUSPECTING CHRIS WAS SLEEPING...
NO! MY CRAVING MUST BE SATISFIED ELSEWHERE! EVEN THROUGH MY LOATHSOME CORRUPTION YOUR LOVE TOUCHES ME! BUT I MUST HAVE BLOOD! THE MANSERVANT!

WHO IS IT?
YOUR MISTRESS! OPEN UP! I HAVE A TASK FOR YOU TO PERFORM AT ONCE!
A SUDDEN ELECTRIC STORM AWAKENED CHRIS THINKING IT MIGHT FRIGHTEN NADYA, CHRIS WENT TO HER ROOM...
NADYA? THAT'S STRANGE! THE BATS ARE GONE TOO!
CHRIS HURRIED DOWN THE HALL IN TIME TO SEE...
THE VAMPIRE!
AARGH!
THE LOATHSOME BATS URGED NADYA ON TO KILL HER BELOVED...
OH, EVIL ONES, I CANNOT! RATHER WOULD I BE DESTROYED THAN HURT THE ONE I LOVE!
NADYA! YOU! I RECOGNIZE YOUR VOICE!
ANGERED BY NADYA'S REFUSAL, THE HUNGRY BATS ATTACKED!
I'M DONE FOR, UNLESS... THIS SWORD!
AS THE BATS FELL IN DEATH, THEIR SPELL OVER NADYA WAS BROKEN!
THINGS OF EVIL! NO MORE SHALL YOU DESTROY, BUT BE DESTROYED!
TOGETHER WITH MY EVIL OMENS, I DIE!
GOOD-BYE, MY DARLING! TRY TO FORGIVE ME FOR TRYING TO ACHIEVE HAPPINESS! REMEMBER THAT I LOVED YOU...
I'LL ALWAYS REMEMBER THE BRIEF MOMENTS OF HAPPINESS WE SPENT TOGETHER!
The END

HORROR - WITH FANGS!
THE AFTER-MIDNIGHT STILLNESS OF A DIM-LIT STREET IN NEW YORK.. IS SHREDDED BY SLOW.. SLITHERING FOOTSTEPS...
MY HEAD! IT'S SPLITTING OPEN! IF I DON'T GET SOMETHING INSIDE OF ME SOON, I'LL BE A GONER!
WHAT A BREAK A GROCERY STILL OPEN! MUST BE TAKING INVENTORY OR SOMETHING..
GROCERY STORE

HIYA! WANNA BE A FRIEND? I'M IN A BAD WAY.. (HICCUP)... GIVE ME SOMETHING FOR WHAT'S AILING ME!
BE GLAD TO, SIR YOU CAME TO THE RIGHT PLACE. SIT DOWN ON THAT BOX FOR A SECOND
POOR FELLOW. I KNOW JUST HOW HE FEELS...
LOOKS LIKE BEET SOUP... GUESS THE OLD DUFFER KNOWS WHAT HE'S GIVING ME.
THANKS. TRUST ME 'TIL TOMORROW... I LIVE JUST AROUND THE CORNER
DON'T MENTION IT, SIR. YOU'LL BE BACK FOR MORE! I KNOW YOU WILL.
YOU'LL SEE, SIR YOU'LL FEEL LIKE A NEW MAN WHEN YOU GET UP IN THE MORNING.
I SURE HOPE SO!
HOME SWEET HOME! I BETTER SIT DOWN FOR A SECOND THAT ELEVATOR RIDE LEFT MY HEAD SPINNING LIKE A TOP..
BOY, I REALLY HAVE A LOAD ON! I BETTER DRINK THIS STUFF AS SOON AS I GET UPSTAIRS!

WHEW I DIDN'T EVEN REALIZE I'VE BEEN WEARING THIS MASK ALL THE TIME . THAT'S HOW STINKO I AM! THAT SURE WAS A LULU OF A MASQUERADE BALL!
HMM . THE STUFF THE GROCER GAVE ME .. MAYBE THAT'LL HELP. I'LL TAKE IT INTO THE KITCHEN . OPEN IT.
COVER SURE IS ON TIGHT... WHERE'S THE OPENER IT'S SLIPPING!
JUST MY LUCK WHAT THE THAT'S NOT BEET SOUP!
CRASH!
IT.. IT LOOKS LIKE... BLOOD!
SOBERED, THE YOUNG MAN RUSHES INTO THE STREET.
THAT POOR LITTLE GROCER COULD GET INTO A LOT OF TROUBLE! I'LL TELL HIM TO CHECK THE REST OF THE STOCK!
GROCERY STORE

THAT JAR YOU GAVE ME IT WAS FILLED WITH BLOOD!
IT WAS..?
YEAH! LET'S CHECK THE OTHER JARS, THEN WE'LL GO TOGETHER AND REPORT IT TO THE POLICE!
I'M SO SORRY!
..THIS NEVER SHOULD HAVE HAPPENED...
...I MADE A DREADFUL MISTAKE...
YOU SEE.. WHEN YOU CAME IN DRESSED THAT WAY...
I THOUGHT YOU WERE ONE OF US!
AAAGGGHH!
Fernando
THE END

FOLLOW US INTO THE HEART OF THE BLAZING DESERT WHERE EVIL LURKS IN THE BROODING SILENCE...AND

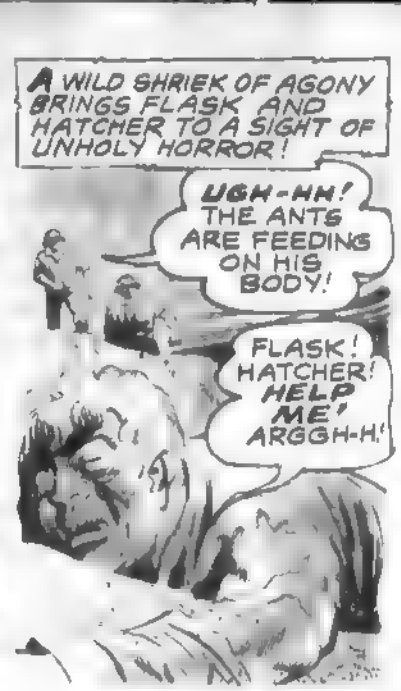
THE MUMMIES!

NO! NO! IT CAN'T BE -- HIM! YAAH-H!!

STUMBLING THROUGH THE ENDLESS WASTES OF THE EGYPTIAN DESERT, THREE ARCHEOLOGISTS COME UPON A **STARTLING** DISCOVERY...

I'D LIKE TO STUDY THESE SPECIMENS CAREFULLY!
SO WOULD I, WADE!

That EVENING...
WHERE DID WADE GO? I TOLD HIM NOT TO WANDER


A WILD SHRIEK OF AGONY BRINGS FLASK AND HATCHER TO A SIGHT OF UNHOLY HORROR!
UGH-HH! THE ANTS ARE FEEDING ON HIS BODY!
FLASK! HATCHER! HELP ME! ARGGH-H!

WE CAN'T HELP HIM NOW!
NO! THEY MIGHT GET US, TOO!

WE COULDN'T SAVE HIM, COULD WE?
THERE WAS NO POINT IN SACRIFICING OURSELVES!

WE'LL LEAVE HIM HERE--AND BURY HIM IN THE MORNING!
THESE MUMMIES GIVE ME THE CREEPS!

LATE THAT EVE, DREADFUL FIGURES EMERGE FROM THE MUMMY CASES...
LOOK!

MY PEOPLE, OUR TOMB HAS BEEN DEFILED BY INTRUDERS! THEY HAVE LEFT A DECAYING CORPSE ON OUR ALTAR! THEY MUST BE DESTROYED!

BUT FIRST, WE MUST REMOVE THE BODY FROM THE ALTAR!
YES! TAKE IT AWAY!

SUDDENLY, A LOW MOAN ISSUES FROM THE GRUESOME IMAGE ON THE ALTAR...
AH-H! IT'S MOVING! THE POWER OF THE ANCIENT GODS HAVE RESTORED LIFE TO HIM!
...THEN... HE MUST BE ONE OF THE GODS! LET US BOW BEFORE HIM!!

WHAT IS IT YOU WISH, OH SACRED BEING?
I SHALL HELP YOU DESTROY THE INTRUDERS! THEY WATCHED THE ANTS DEVOUR ME... AND DID NOTHING!

WITHIN THE CAMP, THE MEN WERE UNABLE TO SLEEP...
WHAT A STRANGE NIGHT, HATCHER!
I'LL FEEL BETTER WHEN WE'RE OUT OF THIS PLACE!

YOU KNOW, I'D SWEAR THERE WAS SOMETHING...
LOOKS LIKE A BAND OF TRAVELLERS! NOW WHO WOULD BE--

LED BY THEIR REPULSIVE "GOD", THE SPIRITS OF THE DEAD APPEAR OUT OF THE DARKNESS...
IT'S... IT'S WADE!! BUT HOW COULD HE BE--
LET'S GET OUT OF HERE, FLASK!

YOU CAN NEVER ESCAPE YOUR DOOM! YOU WATCHED ME DIE, AND NOW THE CURSE OF A DEFILED TOMB SHALL BRING YOU DEATH!
WADE! WE DIDN'T MEAN TO LET YOU DIE! WE WERE FRIGHTENED AND--

NO! NO! LET US GO!
YAAGH-H!
TAKE THEM!

ON THE WILD PANIC OF THEIR FLIGHT, THE MEN STUMBLE BLINDLY ABOUT...
YAAI-EEE!!
DON'T TOUCH ME! LET ME GO!

SHALL I HELP YOU, HATCHER?? HA! HA! HA!
THE ANTS! THE ANTS! ARRGGH-H!

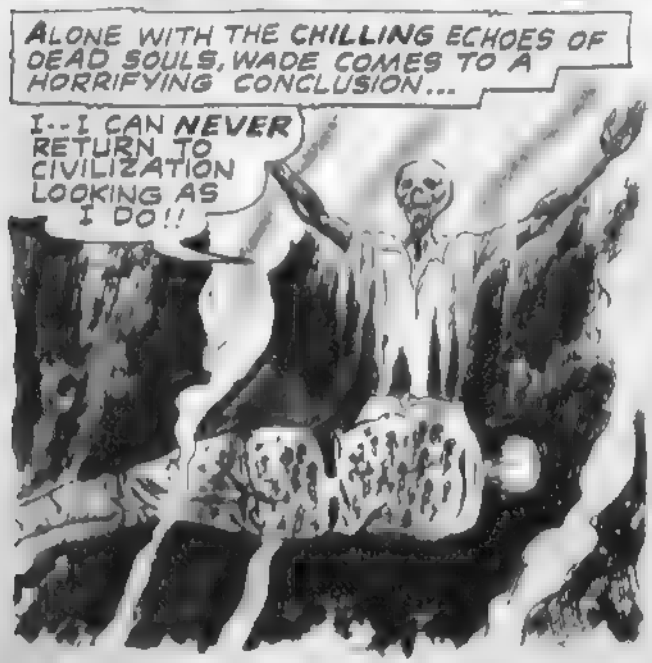
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO TO ME??
I HAVE HAD MY REVENGE! HE IS YOURS!

YOU CAN'T BURY ME ALIVE...IN THERE! NO! YAHH!

M-M-M-AARGH!!
YOU CAN OPEN IT... NOW!

ONE MOMENT OF UNBEARABLE TERROR-- A SHRIEK OF AGONY...AND THEN FLASK'S SEVERED BODY HURTLES FORTH FROM THE CASE!
AN IRON MAIDEN! HA! HA!

OUR TOMB IS DEFILED NO LONGER! WE MUST RETURN TO THE BEYOND... TO DWELL IN ETERNITY!


ALONE WITH THE CHILLING ECHOES OF DEAD SOULS, WADE COMES TO A HORRIFYING CONCLUSION...
I--I CAN NEVER RETURN TO CIVILIZATION LOOKING AS I DO!!

ON THE BROODING SILENCE OF THE DESERT, A SINGLE FRIGHTFUL FIGURE WALKS SLOWLY TOWARDS THE WELCOME PEACE OF DEATH!
THE END

SOMETHING'S BOUND TO GO WRONG WHEN AN AMATEUR TOYS WITH THE POWERS OF THE MASTER. IN THIS CASE, THE MASTER WAS A SORCERER WHO LEFT HIS YOUNG AND FOOLISH ASSISTANT ALONE --- WITH THESE SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS...

NEVER KILL A CORPSE

GEORGE WATKINS IS BEYOND THE PALE NOW! DEAD! SO PERHAPS HE HAS FOUND THE EXPLANATIONS, BUT ALL THAT WE, THE LIVING, KNOW IS WHAT HAPPENED HERE ON THIS SPHERE! BEGINNING WITH THE NIGHT THAT WALTER HANLY FOUND WATKINS HOVERING MIDWAY BETWEEN LIFE AND DEATH!

GEORGE! YOU FOOL! I'VE WARNED YOU! THE DEAD ARE NOT TO BE CALLED BACK LIGHTLY!

WAKE UP! YOU'RE TOYING WITH THINGS YOU DON'T EVEN BEGIN TO UNDERSTAND!

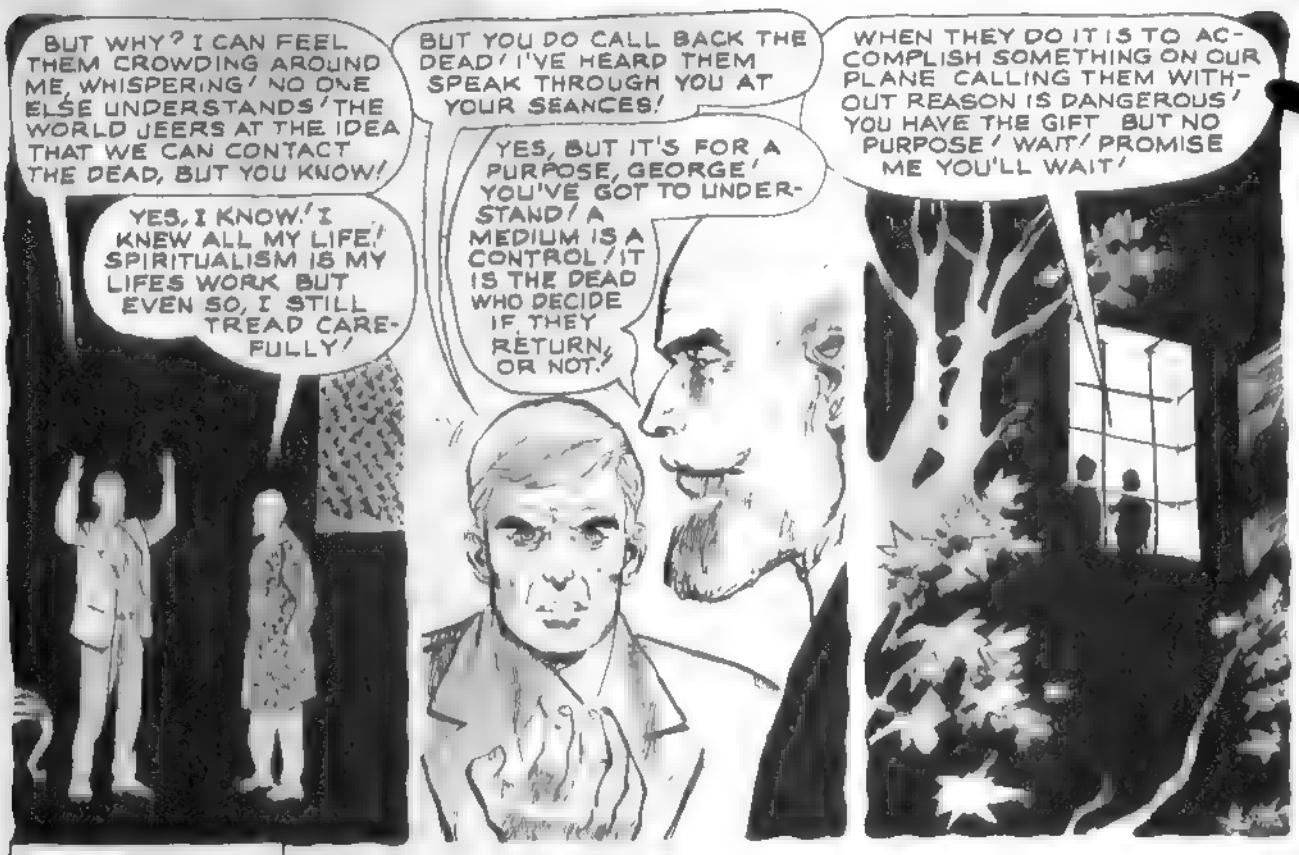
WHAT WHAT IS IT

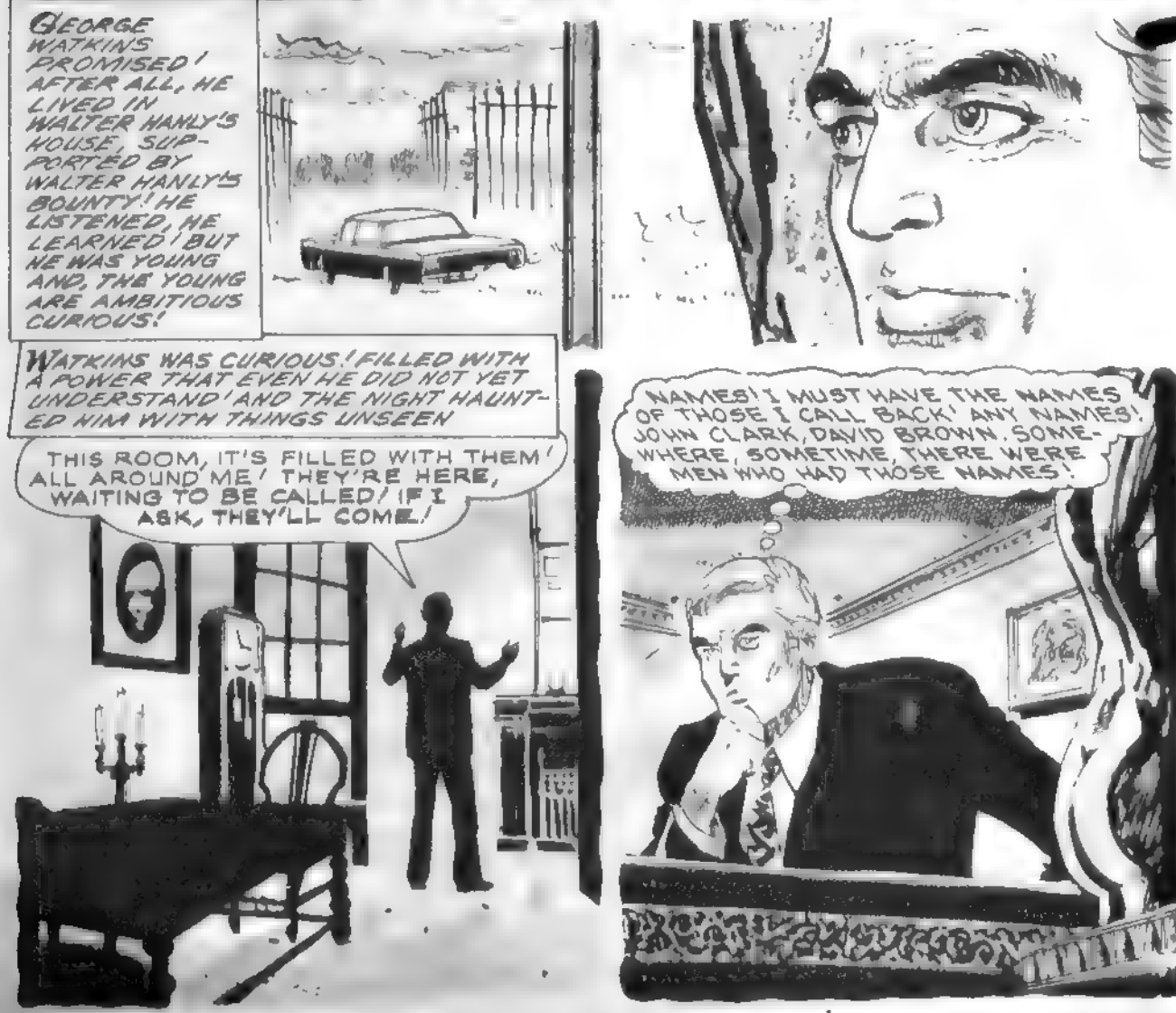
OH, IT IT'S YOU, MR HANLY! I THOUGHT YOU HAD GONE OUT FOR THE EVENING! WHAT WHAT HAPPENED?

SOMETHING THAT SHOULDN'T HAVE! YOU WERE IN A TRANCE! IN THE BEGINNING OF A TRANCE!

THEN I'VE DONE IT! THIS POWER THAT I FEEL IN ME IS REAL!

I'VE NEVER DOUBTED IT! THAT'S WHY I'VE TAUGHT YOU! SOMEDAY YOU'LL BE A GREAT MEDIUM, BUT YOU'RE NOT READY YET!


BUT WHY? I CAN FEEL THEM CROWDING AROUND ME, WHISPERING! NO ONE ELSE UNDERSTANDS! THE WORLD JEERS AT THE IDEA THAT WE CAN CONTACT THE DEAD, BUT YOU KNOW!
YES, I KNOW! I KNEW ALL MY LIFE! SPIRITUALISM IS MY LIFES WORK BUT EVEN SO, I STILL TREAD CAREFULLY!
BUT YOU DO CALL BACK THE DEAD! I'VE HEARD THEM SPEAK THROUGH YOU AT YOUR SEANCES!
YES, BUT IT'S FOR A PURPOSE, GEORGE! YOU'VE GOT TO UNDERSTAND! A MEDIUM IS A CONTROL! IT IS THE DEAD WHO DECIDE IF THEY RETURN, OR NOT!
WHEN THEY DO IT IS TO ACCOMPLISH SOMETHING ON OUR PLANE CALLING THEM WITHOUT REASON IS DANGEROUS! YOU HAVE THE GIFT BUT NO PURPOSE! WAIT! PROMISE ME YOU'LL WAIT!

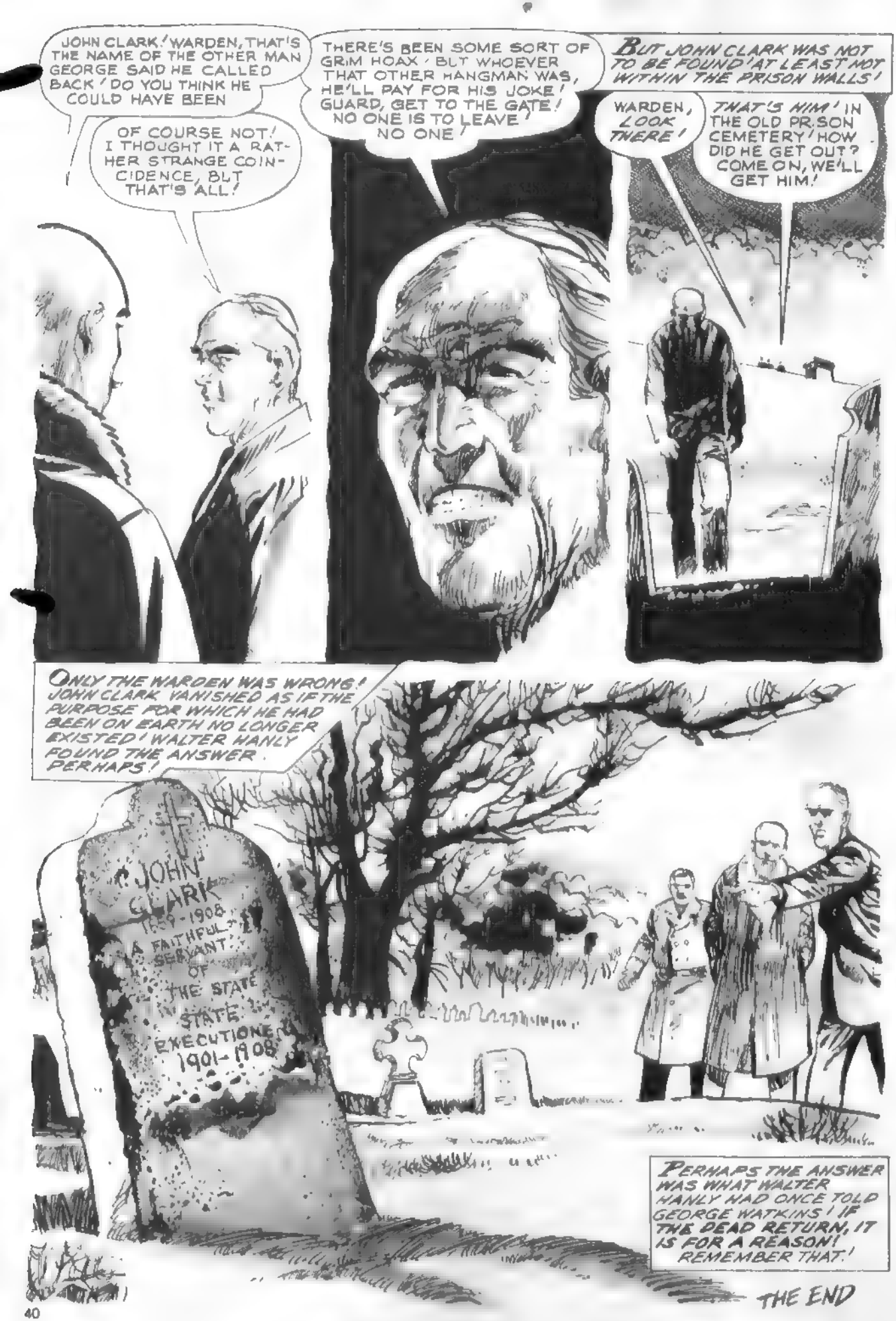

GEORGE WATKINS PROMISED! AFTER ALL, HE LIVED IN WALTER HANLY'S HOUSE, SUPPORTED BY WALTER HANLY'S BOUNTY! HE LISTENED, HE LEARNED! BUT HE WAS YOUNG AND, THE YOUNG ARE AMBITIOUS CURIOUS!
WATKINS WAS CURIOUS! FILLED WITH A POWER THAT EVEN HE DID NOT YET UNDERSTAND! AND THE NIGHT HAUNTED HIM WITH THINGS UNSEEN
THIS ROOM, IT'S FILLED WITH THEM! ALL AROUND ME! THEY'RE HERE, WAITING TO BE CALLED! IF I ASK, THEY'LL COME!
NAMES! I MUST HAVE THE NAMES OF THOSE I CALL BACK! ANY NAMES! JOHN CLARK, DAVID BROWN. SOMEWHERE, SOMETIME, THERE WERE MEN WHO HAD THOSE NAMES!

DAVID BROWN JOHN CLARK COME I AM WAITING
D-DOORBELL THAT'S THE DOORBELL!
AFTERWARDS GEORGE MAYKINS SPOKE OF THE HEAVINESS WHICH BEGAN TO PRESS HIM DOWN THEN NOTHING A BLACK BOTTOM A DEEP DARK PIT FROM WHICH HE EMERGED DAZED WEAK
TOC TOC
YES, WHAT IS IT?
YOU SENT FOR ME! MY NAME IS DAVID BROWN!
GEORGE HAD NOT BEEN FULLY AWARE UNTIL THEN! BUT NOW, SUDDENLY, THE AIR WAS COLD! SUDDENLY HE WAS AFRAID! SUDDENLY THE MAN AT THE DOOR STEPPED INTO THE LIGHT!
BROWN? WHAT SORT OF A JOKE IS THIS? THERE IS NO DAVID BROWN. I JUST MADE UP THAT NAME!
I AM DAVID BROWN!
Y-YOU'RE OUT OF YOUR MIND! GET OUT!
BUT THIS IS WHERE I BELONG! WITH YOU! YOU CALLED ME I CAME!
THEN GO BACK WHERE YOU CAME FROM! THIS IS A DREAM! IN A MINUTE I'LL WAKE UP AND YOU'LL BE GONE!

PERHAPS GEORGE WATKINS WAS ILL! PERHAPS HE JUST IMAGINED WHAT HAPPENED THAT EVENING!
GO AWAY.. GO BACK YOU AREN'T REAL YOU CAN'T BE!
DEVIL! CORPSE WHATEVER YOU ARE! GO BACK! STAY AWAY
DON'T COME NEAR ME!
NO! THE END WAS NOT IMAGINATION! THE KNIFE WAS THERE AND GEORGE WATKINS WAS AFRAID! HE WAS SITTING AT THE DESK SHIVERING WHEN WALTER HANLY RETURNED!
GEORGE! WHAT HAPPENED?
HAPPENED? I DON'T THINK I KNOW! I DON'T UNDERSTAND!
HE'S DEAD! BUT WHO IS HE?
NO ONE! A SHADOW! I CALLED HIM, HE SAID! SO HE CAME FROM THE DEAD! I KILLED A CORPSE! BUT THAT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE, DOES IT?
GEORGE TOLD HIS STORY! THEN FOR THE FIRST TIME HIS STORY WAS BELIEVED FOR THE FIRST TIME. AND THE LAST!
BUT I CALLED TWO MEN, WHERE IS THE OTHER ONE, JOHN CLARK? MR HANLY, YOU SAID THE DEAD RETURN FOR A PURPOSE! WHAT DOES IT MEAN?
I DON'T KNOW! I ONLY HOPE WE CAN MAKE THE POLICE BELIEVE YOUR STORY AS I DO! THAT'S ALL I CAN HOPE FOR!
HOPE? YES, THERE IS ALWAYS HOPE! BUT SOMETIMES, ONLY A FORLORN HOPE! FOR WATKINS THERE WAS NO HOPE. POLICEMEN DO NOT BELIEVE THE IMPOSSIBLE!
I'LL SAY ONE THING FOR YOU, WATKINS, YOUR STORY IS DIFFERENT, ANYWAY! VERY INTERESTING!
INTERESTING? IT'S TRUE! EVERY WORD!

MR HANLY, MAKE HIM UNDERSTAND THAT I'M NOT LYING!
HE WOULDN'T LISTEN, GEORGE! I WARNED YOU, THERE ARE THINGS NOT TO BE TAMPERED WITH!
I'LL BACK YOU UP IN COURT, GEORGE, BUT THEY WON'T LISTEN! I KNOW THEY WON'T!
THEY'LL LISTEN, HANLY! BUT I DOUBT IF YOU'LL BE ABLE TO EXPLAIN AWAY THAT CORPSE ON THE FLOOR! FOR A SPOOK, HE LOOKS PRETTY SOLID TO ME!
WAIT IF HE EXISTS, THEN JOHN CLARK MUST EXIST! FIND HIM! HE'LL BE ABLE TO EXPLAIN! YOU'VE GOT TO FIND HIM!
SURE! SURE! BUT, MEANWHILE IT'S MY DUTY TO WARN YOU THAT ANYTHING YOU SAY WILL BE USED AGAINST YOU! YOU'RE UNDER ARREST!
BUT THE POLICE NEVER FOUND JOHN CLARK! NO ONE BELIEVED IN SUCH A MAN! REALLY, HOW COULD THEY?
JOHN CLARK! COME NOW, MR WATKINS, YOU'VE CARRIED THIS FAIRY TALE FAR ENOUGH!
I'M NOT A MURDERER! THE MAN I KILLED WAS ALREADY DEAD! YOU HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO IDENTIFY HIM!
IF YOU'D JUST FIND JOHN CLARK, HE COULD EXPLAIN... ONLY HE!
EXPLAIN? THAT YOU CREATED HIM? THAT YOU BROUGHT HIM BACK FROM THE DEAD! REALLY, MR WATKINS, YOU CAN DO BETTER THAN THAT!
THE STATES ATTORNEY SMILED BUT HE WAS NOT SMILING AT THE END! THERE IS NO HUMOR IN A DEATH SENTENCE!
TO BE HANGED BY THE NECK UNTIL YOU ARE DEAD!
WATKINS STOOD ON THE SCAFFOLD SCREAMING FOR JOHN CLARK... BUT... NO ONE LISTENED!
NO! YOU FOOLS! FIND JOHN CLARK! FIND JOHN CLARK!

HE SCREAMED UNTIL THE TRAP DROPPED! THEN THE SILENCE WAS BROKEN BY WITNESSES AS THEY FILED OUT, SOBER AS MEN ARE IN THE PRESENCE OF DEATH!
IT'S OVER THEN, WARDEN?
YOU HAVE PERMISSION TO CLAIM WATKINS BODY, HANLY, BUT YOU HAVE NO RIGHT HERE!
IS SOMETHING THE MATTER?
I JUST FELT A SUDDEN CHILL, AS IF A COLD WIND HAD SPRUNG UP!
I'M SORRY, IF I'VE BROKEN ANY RULES, I'LL WAIT IN YOUR OFFICE UNTIL I CAN CLAIM THE BODY!
WARDEN, WARDEN!
PORTER, I THOUGHT YOU WOULDN'T BE HERE TONIGHT!
SO THE GUARD TOLD ME! I UNDERSTOOD THAT THE EXECUTION WAS SET FOR ELEVEN! IT'S ONLY TEN NOW!
BUT THE GUARD TELLS ME THE EXECUTION IS ALREADY OVER!
IT IS. I UNDERSTOOD THAT YOU WERE ILL! THE OTHER MAN HAD ALL THE PROPER PAPERS. I HAD NO REASON TO DOUBT HIM!
OTHER MAN? WHAT OTHER MAN?
THE MAN WHO HANGED WATKINS! HIS PAPERS WERE IN ORDER! JOHN CLARK, EXECUTIONER! HE SUGGESTED THE CHANGE IN TIME!


JOHN CLARK! WARDEN, THAT'S THE NAME OF THE OTHER MAN GEORGE SAID HE CALLED BACK! DO YOU THINK HE COULD HAVE BEEN
OF COURSE NOT! I THOUGHT IT A RATHER STRANGE COINCIDENCE, BUT THAT'S ALL!
THERE'S BEEN SOME SORT OF GRIM HOAX! BUT WHOEVER THAT OTHER HANGMAN WAS, HE'LL PAY FOR HIS JOKE! GUARD, GET TO THE GATE! NO ONE IS TO LEAVE! NO ONE!
BUT JOHN CLARK WAS NOT TO BE FOUND! AT LEAST NOT WITHIN THE PRISON WALLS!
WARDEN, LOOK THERE!
THAT'S HIM! IN THE OLD PRISON CEMETERY! HOW DID HE GET OUT? COME ON, WE'LL GET HIM!
ONLY THE WARDEN WAS WRONG! JOHN CLARK VANISHED AS IF THE PURPOSE FOR WHICH HE HAD BEEN ON EARTH NO LONGER EXISTED! WALTER HANLY FOUND THE ANSWER. PERHAPS!
JOHN CLARK 1869-1908 A FAITHFUL SERVANT OF THE STATE STATE EXECUTIONER 1901-1908
PERHAPS THE ANSWER WAS WHAT WALTER HANLY HAD ONCE TOLD GEORGE WATKINS! IF THE DEAD RETURN, IT IS FOR A REASON! REMEMBER THAT!
THE END

THE DEAD DEMONS

IN THE CASTLE OF DOCTOR KARLA, DEEP IN THE BLACK BEATING HEART OF ASIA, A STRANGE BARGAIN IS COMPLETED...
..AND YOU WILL BRING ME MANY BODIES FROM THE GRAVEYARD ON YOUR FERRY PETERS I NEED THEM FOR MY EXPERIMENTS FOR MY CREATION OF A LIVING HUMAN BODY!
KEEP PAYING ME AND I'LL KEEP BRINGING THEM! THERE WON'T BE A CORPSE LEFT WHEN I'M DONE!

THIS ONE SEEMS TO BE A FINE SPECIMEN! DOCTOR KARLA WILL BE PLEASED WITH MY WORK!

THERE SHOULD BE ENOUGH BODIES FOR A DOZEN EXPERIMENTS! HOW MANY DEAD SOULS ARE WANDERING TONIGHT UNABLE TO REST? WHAT IF THEY SHOULD SEEK REVENGE? WHAT IF--- BUT I MUSTN'T THINK OF THAT?!

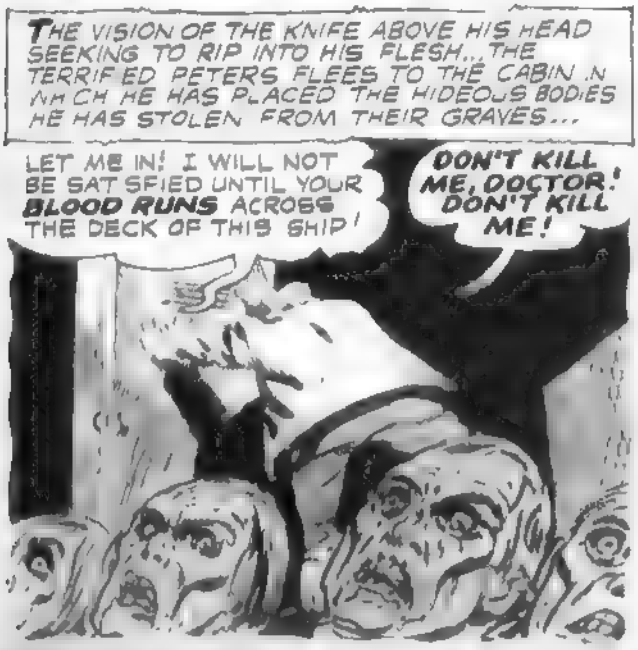
THERE IT IS! NOW I CAN COMPLETE MY MASTERPIECE!... MY LIVING, BREATHING MONSTER! THE WORLD MUST NEVER KNOW---NOBODY---BUT WHAT ABOUT PETERS? I FORGOT ABOUT HIM! HE MUST BE DESTROYED!

AS A DREADFUL CREATURE SPAWNED BY EVIL COMES TO LIFE, SO A DREADFUL PLAN IS FORMULATED IN AN EVIL MIND...
TONIGHT, THE ONE MAN WHO KNOWS OF YOUR EXISTENCE WILL DIE! I'LL SNEAK ABOARD HIS SHIP...

THERE'S A STRANGE CHILL IN THE AIR TONIGHT. THE STENCH OF DEATH IS EVERYWHERE! AND I SEEM TO HEAR VOICES!
RETURN US TO OUR GRAVES... YOU MUST RETURN US TO OUR GRAVES!

AS PETERS BEGAN TO DOCK, KARLA LEAPED ABOARD FROM A LAUNCH, AND...
DIE, FOOL! YOU ARE NO USE TO ME ANY LONGER!
WH--?

COME BACK PETERS. YOU WILL NEVER ESCAPE FROM THIS BOAT!
NO! NO! HAVE I NOT SERVED YOU? HAVE MERCY!


THE VISION OF THE KNIFE ABOVE HIS HEAD SEEKING TO RIP INTO HIS FLESH... THE TERRIFIED PETERS FLEES TO THE CABIN IN WHICH HE HAS PLACED THE HIDEOUS BODIES HE HAS STOLEN FROM THEIR GRAVES...
LET ME IN! I WILL NOT BE SATISFIED UNTIL YOUR BLOOD RUNS ACROSS THE DECK OF THIS SHIP!
DON'T KILL ME, DOCTOR! DON'T KILL ME!

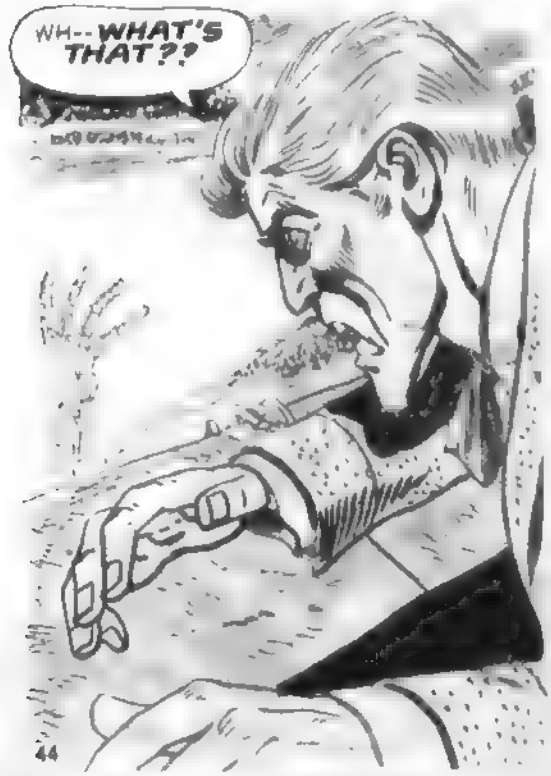
IF YOU KILL ME, THESE BODIES WILL HAVE ALL THEIR REVENGE ON ME FOR OPENING THEIR GRAVES! BUT REMEMBER... YOU GAVE ME THE ORDERS YOU...
RAVE ON, FOOL, AND...

DIE!
AAAGH!

SINK INTO THE DEPTHS OF THE DARK RIVER UNTIL THE RIVER TURNS RED WITH YOUR BLOOD! YOU ARE AS DEAD AS THE BODIES YOU BROUGHT ME! HEH-HEH-HEH!

AS THE DAYS PASS, THE UNHOLY CREATION BEGINS TO TAKE SHAPE! A NIGHT-MARE WORLD TAKES OVER THE HOUSE ABOVE THE RIVER...
AH, MY PRETTY ONE YOU ARE FORMING INTO MY MASTERPIECE AT LAST! SOON YOU WILL WALK AND BREATHE--AND EVEN SPEAK! THE BODIES THAT COMPOSE YOU HAVE BEEN VERY SATISFACTORY!

THERE'S A FEELING OF DEATH TONIGHT! I CAN ALMOST HEAR TORMENTED SOULS CALLING... I MUST GO BACK!
REVENGE FOR YOUR STOLEN BODIES! REVENGE! YOU HAVE VIOLATED THE PACT OF DEATH!


WH--WHAT'S THAT?!

OUT OF THE BROODING BLACKNESS OF THE NIGHT, FIGURES OF DOOM APPEAR TO PLAGUE THE MAN WHO HAS CAUSED THEIR SOULS TO WANDER...
WE HAVE COME TO CLAIM YOU FOR THE LAND OF THE DEAD! WE CANNOT REST UNTIL YOUR BODY HAS CRUMBLED TO DUST!

I MUST GET INSIDE!
THERE IS NO ESCAPE!

LEAVE ME ALONE! DON'T TOUCH ME! AH-H-H!

A SUDDEN AND ACCIDENTAL MOVING OF A SWITCH AND THE MONSTROUS CREATURE STIRS AND COMES TO LIFE...A CREATURE WITHOUT MIND OR PURPOSE...BUT ONLY THE TERRIBLE URGE TO DESTROY...
MY CREATION IS MOVING! IT LIVES!
UGGH! ERRGHHH!

NO! DON'T! I GAVE YOU LIFE AND BREATH AND THE POWER TO MOVE! YOU CAN'T... AIEEE!

AS THE GREY DAWN BEGINS A STRANGE PROCESSION MOVES SLOWLY AND STEADILY TOWARDS THE EDGE OF DOOM AND THE WORLD OF DARKNESS...
FOLLOW ME, UNEARTHLY BEING...JOIN US WHERE ALL UNEARTHLY BEINGS LIVE IN THE PAINFUL FIRE OF ENDLESS DAMNATION! COME!

WHERE AM I? N-NO! NO! PUT ME DOWN! AHHH!
MOVE CLOSER TO THE EDGE... CLOSER... CLOSER...
UGHH! EIGHHH! AGH-HH!

I CREATED YOU I MADE YOU FROM THE CRUMBLING BODIES OF DEAD HUMANS! YOU CAN'T DESTROY ME AND YOURSELF! NO--NO--!

NOW YOUR VENGEANCE IS COMPLETE, SPIRITS OF THE DEAD! NOW YOU CAN REST AND MOLD TO DUST IN YOUR DEFILED GRAVES! HE WHO DISTURBED YOUR LONG SLEEP HAS PAID THE TOLL!

DEEP INTO THE DARK, BLOOD-STAINED RIVER, THE DESPOILERS OF THE DEAD MOVE TO THEIR OWN WATERY GRAVES...AS THE INKY SHROUD OF EVIL ENVELOPES THEM...
FOREVER!!
THE END

POOL OF HORROR

A SPARKLING POOL... WHITE COTTAGES... ALL THE TRAPPINGS OF A PLEASANT SUMMER RESORT! YET WHAT IS THE UNSPEAKABLE EVIL THAT TRANSFORMED THIS PEACEFUL SCENE INTO HORROR...

A SHORT WALK TO THE COLONY-- AND THE THREE ARE SUDDENLY CONFRONTED BY FACES PALE WITH EYES SHINING WITH A FLAME OF EVIL!...

YOU HAVE A FAR WALK TO THE NEXT STATION -- WHY NOT SPEND THE NIGHT WITH US? WE CAN MAKE YOU COMFORTABLE!

TH-THANKS! IT SEEMS WE HAVE NO CHOICE!

PERHAPS YOU WOULD CARE FOR A SWIM BEFORE SUPPER!

FINE! THAT'S JUST WHAT WE NEED!

I DON'T LIKE THIS PLACE! DID YOU SEE THE LOOKS IN THEIR EYES...

NONSENSE, JIM! THEY'RE GOOD-HEARTED PEOPLE!

AS MARY'S FATHER PREPARES TO LEAP INTO THE POOL, THE PEOPLE OF THE COLONY GATHER ABOUT SMILING ..

HAVE A GOOD SWIM!!

THERE'S SOMETHING EVIL IN THE AIR!! I CAN FEEL IT!

COME ON IN! THE WATER IS FINE!

FATHER!! BEHIND YOU!! THERE'S SOMETHING-- SOMETHING HORRIBLE--!

AARGHH!!

NO!

NO!

FEED WELL, MY PRETTY ONE! FEED WELL!!
MY FATHER! WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO MY FATHER??
WHAT MONSTROUS PLACE IS THIS?? WHO ARE YOU??
IT IS TIME YOU KNEW THE TRUTH!!
WE ARE PEOPLE OF DARKNESS-- AND THIS IS WHERE WE SPEND OUR SUMMERS FOR SPORT... AND ENTERTAINMENT... AS YOU SHALL DISCOVER!!
LATER...
WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN TO US?
SHH: I THINK I HEAR ONE OF THEM COMING!
THE AMUSEMENT HALL IS OPEN-- AND THE PERFORMANCE HAS BEGUN!! STUDY IT CAREFULLY-- FOR TOMORROW YOU SHALL PERFORM FOR US!!
WHY DON'T YOU JUST KILL US AND BE DONE WITH IT?
THE COUPLE IS LED TO A SCENE WHICH MAKES A DREADFUL MOCKERY OF THE LAUGHTER... AND A FIENDISH LUST OF THE APPLAUSE!!...
IT'S AMUSING.. IS IT NOT??
NO NO! NO!

COME! COME!! WHY DO YOU SHRINK FROM ITS LOVING EMBRACE??
LET ME GO!! LET ME GO!!!
ONE BY ONE THE PERFORMERS ARE BROUGHT ONTO THE STAGE-- TO DO THEIR BIT FOR THE PLEASURE OF THE BLOOD-MAD SPECTATORS...
qAR GGH
ENCORE! ENCORE!
STOP!! STOP!! YAAH-H!
MORE! MORE!
FINALLY, THE AUDIENCE OF FIENDS EMERGE FROM THEIR "ENTERTAIN-MENT" HALL, WITH THE PROMISE OF NEW VICTIMS LIGHTING THEIR RAVAGED FACES!!...
SLEEP WELL, MY FRIENDS... FOR REMEMBER, YOU SHALL PERFORM FOR US TOMORROW NIGHT!!
TAKE US BACK TO THE COTTAGE-- I CAN'T BEAR TO GAZE AT YOUR HIDEOUS BEING!!
WHAT CAN WE DO, JIM? WHAT CAN WE DO??
WE MUST ESCAPE!! THERE'S GOT TO BE A WAY OUT--MARY!! I HAVE IT!!-- THE MISSION!!
THE MISSION WE PASSED IS JUST A SHORT DISTANCE AWAY... AND WITCHES CANNOT LIVE UNDER THE SOUNDS OF CHURCH BELLS! IF I COULD GET TO THOSE BELLS...
WE WOULD BE SAVED!! BUT HOW--

GUARD-- COME QUICKLY!! M-MY WIFE'S GONE OUT OF HER MIND!! SHE'S TRYING TO KILL ME!!
WHAT'S THE MATTER??
WHEN THE GUARD OPENED THE DOOR, JIM GRABBED HIM BY THE THROAT AND KILLED HIM!..
AARGH-H-H!
HURRY, MARY-- WE HAVE NO TIME TO LOSE!!
NO, JIM-- I--I'M TOO EXHAUSTED!! I'D ONLY GET US BOTH CAUGHT! YOU GO ALONE... QUICKLY!!
WHILE THE CREATURES PERFORM THEIR FRENZIED RITES OF EVIL, JIM SLIPS AWAY INTO THE NIGHT!...
GOT TO HURRY--BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!!
BUT AS MARY WAITS, THE WITCHES COME IN SEARCH FOR THE MISSING GUARD AND BRING WITH THEM THE CHILL OF VIOLENT DEATH...
THE MAN HAS ESCAPED!! BUT WE STILL HAVE HER-- ONE FRESH MORSEL OF FOOD FOR OUR HUNGRY PET!!
W-WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?
THROW HER IN!
NO!! DON'T!!

WHAT WAS THAT SOUND ?? IT-- IT COULDN'T BE...
IT'S JIM! HE-- HE'S REACHED THE CHURCH!
CLANG!
CLANG!
CLANG!

AS THE BELLS RING THE DEMONS OF DARKNESS CROUCH LIKE WOUNDED ANIMALS DOOMED TO DIE IN FLAME!!
AIEEE! THE BELLS!!
CLANG!
CLANG!
CLANG!

THE FLAMES! THE FLAMES! YAAAAH-H-H!!!

LIKE THE BURNING VENGEANCE OF HEAVEN, THE FIRE CONTINUES TO EAT AT THE BODIES OF THE AGONIZED CREATURES...
AAAGH

JIM! JIM, DARLING!! WHERE ARE YOU ??

SOON JIM AND MARY TURNER-- THE GHASTLY EVENTS OF THE DAY SEARED IN THEIR MINDS-- WATCH THE COLONY BEING DEVOURED IN FLAMES...
IT'S HORRIBLE, JIM!! I--I CAN'T BEAR TO LOOK!!
THEY DIE AS THEY DESERVE TO DIE, MARY-- IN FIRE!!

THE VAMPIRE FLIES

THE GREED FOR POWER CAN CREATE, DESTROY AND HORRIFY BUT BALUK KHAN, THE CONQUEROR THOUGHT NOTHING COULD WITHSTAND HIS MIGHT... THE ONLY THING HE FORGOT WAS THAT NO ONE COULD CONQUER...

OF COURSE THEY WERE! AND WHAT WAR DO YOU THINK WAS THE WORST?
VIETNAM?
KOREA?
WORLD WAR II?
OR WORLD WAR I?

...OR WAS THE WAR BETWEEN THE STATES THE MOST TERRIBLE? SURELY, MEN DIED, BLOOD WAS SPILLED, BODIES WERE MAIMED... TERROR WAS BORN...
LET'S GO, BOYS! GET THOSE REBS! GET 'EM!

AND TURN BACK THE PAGES OF TIME! TURN BACK TO THAT FROZEN DAY WHEN NAPOLEON FOUGHT AGAINST THE RISING TIDE OF HIS SIBERIAN FOES..

BUT EVEN BEFORE HIM... WHEN MEDIEVAL BARONS FOUGHT TO THE DEATH FOR POWER AND LOOT... EVEN THEN WERE THERE NOT GROANS AND SCREAMS AND SHRIEKS?...

YES... BUT NO WHERE... AT NO TIME... WAS THERE SUCH A MORE HORRIBLE FOE THAN THE HORDE! THE HORDE WHO RODE AGAINST NATIONS... AND LEFT NOT EVEN A BLADE OF GRASS... THE HORDE OF WAR! THE HORDE OF DEATH!
T-THEY COME!

DOWN THROUGH THE PLAINS OF MONGOLIA... RACING THROUGH THE MOUNTAINS OF TURKESTAN AND THE FROZEN STEPPES OF BLACK CATHAY AND TIBET... SURMOUNTING THE MIGHTY WALLS OF BLACK CATHAY AND CHINA... THEY CAME... CUTTING, KILLING, TORTURING, BURNING, CRUSHING...

FLEE! WE CANNOT FIGHT THEM! FLEE... OR WE SHALL BE CUT DOWN!

TOO LATE! THEY ARE UPON US! HAVE MERCY! MERCY!

HA, HA... MORE SWINE TO AMUSE OURSELVES WITH! KILL! KILL!

KILL!

EEEE

EE

AND WHO WAS THEIR LEADER? WHO WAS THIS MIGHTY CONQUEROR ... THIS RUTHLESS MASTERMIND OF THE HORDE! A LITTLE-KNOWN NAME, DEAR READER! A NAME THAT WOULD SEND SHIVERS OF FEAR DOWN YOUR BACKS HAD YOU KNOWN HIM PERSONALLY! BALUK KHAN, THE DESTROYER! BALUK KHAN, THE RIGHT ARM OF GENGHIS KHAN!

LET NO STONE BE UNTURNED! KILL MEN, WOMAN, AND CHILDREN! FROM THIS MOMENT ON, THIS VILLAGE WILL NO LONGER EXIST! NAY, NOT EVEN ONE BLADE OF GRASS!

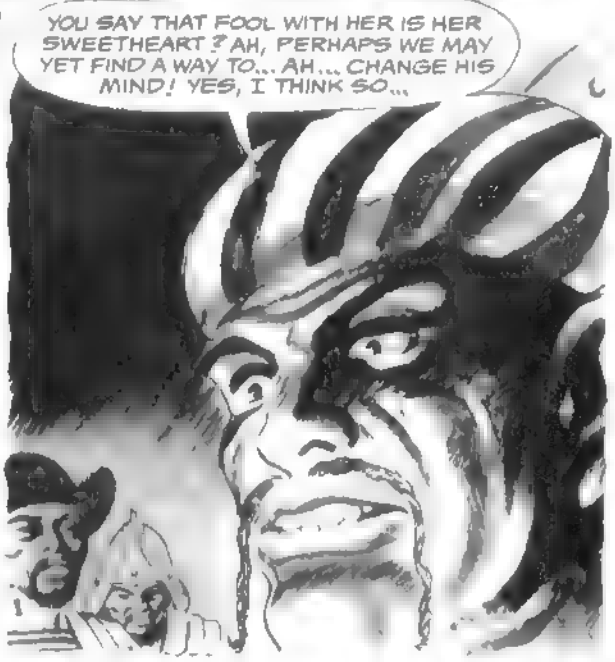
AND HE MURDERED, AND HE KILLED, AND HE TORTURED! AND THE RIVERS RAN RED WITH BLOOD...
THE TARTARS ARE VANQUISHED! THEIR LANDS, HERDS, POSSESSIONS, EVERYTHING! NOW IT'S MINE! MINE!
AND NOW... FOR THE PROVINCE OF UZRUK!
GOTH
UZRUK
PASINO
UZRUK... LAND OF THE BEAUTIFUL PEOPLE! A LAND RULED BY AN OLD MONARCH... A MAN NO MATCH FOR THE SAVAGE BARBARIANS TO COME...
WHY SO SAD FATHER? WHAT HAS RUINED THY HAPPINESS?
I FEAR FOR OUR LIVES, LARLA! YEA... FOR EVERY MAN, WOMAN, AND BABE IN OUR FAIR ...AND! BALUK APPROACHES OUR DOMAIN!
I HAVE HEARD OF HIS CRUELTY AND HIS HORDE! OUR SOLDIERS WILL BE NO MATCH FOR HIM! COULDN'T WE WIN HIM OVER BY KINDNESS AND BY FRIENDSHIP?
WE MIGHT USE BRIBERY, WHERE MIGHT CANNOT SUCCEED! HMMMMM...
HO, RENZOR... VARIAN... TOPAK! CALL OUR PEOPLE TOGETHER! WE MUST GIVE BALUKA A GIANT FEAST! MAKE PREPARATIONS AT ONCE! HURRY!
YES, OH LORD! WE SHALL DO SO WITH ALL HASTE!

AND SO A GIANT CELEBRATION WAS ARRANGED.. IN HONOR OF THEIR "PROTECTOR" AND THEIR "FRIEND" THE MIGHTY BALUK KHAN...
MORE WINE! QUICKLY!
Y-YES GREAT CONQUERER!

BALUK LOVED TO EAT...
... FOOD! WHAT COULD BE BETTER? BRING MORE!

... AND BALUK LOVED WOMEN...
YOU ARE INDEED VERY BEAUTIFUL, MY LITTLE FLOWER!

BUT WHEN BALUK SAW LARLA, HIS HEART WAS LOST...
WHO IS THAT? I MUST KNOW! I MUST HAVE HER!
SHE IS THE DAUGHTER OF THE UZRUK KING! AND THE MAN WITH HER IS HER BETHROTHED!


YOU SAY THAT FOOL WITH HER IS HER SWEETHEART? AH, PERHAPS WE MAY YET FIND A WAY TO... AH... CHANGE HIS MIND! YES, I THINK SO...

AND BALUK MEANT EVERY WORD HE SAID...
BUT WHERE DO YOU GO, BROTHER? ARE YOU NOT SATISFIED WITH THE FEAST IN YOUR HONOR?
WE CANNOT SIT IN THE CAMP OF THOSE WHO HAVE THE SCOURGE UPON THEM BEHOLD!

BUT YOUR COMING DID NOT GIVE US TIME TO...
DO NOT REPLY WITH EXCUSES! WE ARE LEAVING! THE VAMPIRE FLIES OF DEATH SHALL NOT TOUCH US!
GOOD! NOW I HAVE CREATED A BASIS FOR WAR!

A FEW WEEKS LATER, IN THE TENT OF LARLA'S BETROTHED...
ARRGHH!

AND SOON AFTERWARDS... DEATH FOR THE KING'S BODYGUARD BY MYSTERIOUS ASSAILANTS...
THIS IS FOR KHAN!

AND ONE MONTH AFTER THAT... AT THE VERY GATES OF THE UZRUK EMPIRE...
CRASH THROUGH THE PORTALS OF THE ENEMY! MY HORDE! SHOW THEM WHAT IT MEANS TO RESIST US!
ONWARD! OUR MIGHTY MASTER LEADS US!

NONE COULD ESCAPE...
UGH-H... AT LEAST... I SHALL NOT DIE... IN DISGRACE, LARLA! KILL YOURSELF, MY CHILD! TO LIVE WILL BE WORST THAN DEATH...
NO, FATHER! I SHALL LIVE LONG ENOUGH FOR REVENGE! HE SHALL NOT ESCAPE MY WRATH!

SO THE HORDE SWEPT THROUGH ANOTHER LAND ONCE MORE... RUTHLESSLY, INVINCIBLY... UNTIL THEY FACED A SILENT GIRL ON A SOMBER THRONE...
YOU AWAIT ME IN BRIDAL SPLENDOR, MY DOVE!

YOU WILL NOT SAY A WORD AGAINST ME, EH! I AM PLEASED! HERE IS MY KISS TO YOU, LARLA! MY LOVE SPEAKS FOR ITSELF!
HAIL TO OUR KHAN!

BEHOLD MY NEW BRIDE! MY VALIANT SOLDIERS! RAISE YOUR CRIES OF VICTORY TO HER!
BUT SHE APPEARS SILENT, MIGHTY ONE! IT IS A BAD OMEN! MAKE HER SPEAK!

BAH! I SHALL DO BETTER THAN THAT! I SHALL KISS HER AGAIN SO THAT SHE MAY KNOW THE POWER OF MY LOVE! SPEAK NOW, OH BELOVED! THY MASTER COMMANDS THEE!

WHAT? YOU DARE DISOBEY? SPEAK I SAID... OR I SHALL CUT OUT THY TONGUE WITH MY OWN DAGGER!

AIEEE!! THE VAMPIRE FLIES!
YES, MIGHTY CONQUEROR! YOUR HORDE AND YOUR WEAPONS, AND YOUR CUNNING ARE POWERFUL INDEED! BUT YOU HAVE MET AN ENEMY SMALLER THAN YOUR THUMB!
The End

CATS OF DOOM

WHY CAN'T WE GET OFF THE TRAIN HERE?
THE EVIL LYNX MAN COULD MAKE YOU HIS VICTIM! TONIGHT'S HIS LAST CHANCE TO CAPTURE A SACRIFICE FOR THE CAT GODS! I MUST GO, SENORITA, TO WARN THE OTHER PASSENGERS!
WHAT KIND OF SUPERSTITIOUS HUMBUG WAS HE PRATTLING ABOUT? THE TRAIN'S STOPPED! I'VE GOT TO TAKE A PEEK AND.. OOOH! A CAT!
WHY THAT NERVY ANIMAL GRABBED MY PURSE! COME BACK HERE WITH THAT!
THIS PLACE IS SO EMPTY AND LONELY! OH!
WHERE DID THAT CAT GO? I MUST GET THAT PURSE! IT HAS ALL MY MONEY AND MY VISA!
ALLOW ME, SENORITA! I WITNESSED THE THIEVERY AND SNATCHED THE PRIZE FROM THE CULPRIT AS HE RAN PAST!
AS RUTH EXPRESSED HER THANKS, SHE DID NOT NOTICE THAT THE TRAIN HAD BEGUN TO LEAVE, UNTIL IT WAS TOO LATE!
OH, I'VE MISSED IT! NOW I'M STRANDED HERE!
PERHAPS TRAPPED WOULD BE A BETTER WORD, SENORITA!

AND SO, AFTER A COMFORTABLE NIGHT AT MY ER... INN, YOU CAN CATCH THE MORNING TRAIN!
I SEEM TO HAVE NO CHOICE! WHY IS NO ONE ABOUT, AND THOSE HOUSES ALL BOARDED UP? IS IT THAT LYNX-MAN STORY?
EEK! THAT HORRIBLE SHADOW SHOWS A MAN HANGING FROM THE GALLOWS!
I-UH-SEE NOTHING! IT'S JUST YOUR IMAGINATION! LET US HURRY!
WHAT IS THAT SUPERSTITIOUS LEGEND ALL ABOUT?
THERE WAS A MAN NAMED VELOZ, WHOSE PET MOUNTAIN LYNX GREW VICIOUS AND KILLED A CHILD! ANGRY VILLAGERS SENTENCED IT TO BE KILLED, BUT VELOZ SET IT FREE AND THE MOB TURNED ON VELOZ!
I-I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT! THE GALLOWS IS EMPTY! YET I'D SWEAR THAT SHADOW SHOWED A CORPSE!
STRANGE! I WAS JUST ABOUT TO TELL YOU THAT THEY HANGED THIS MAN VELOZ!
RUTH WALKED TO THE OTHER SIDE OF THE VILLAGE WITH THE MAN WHO HAD BEFRIENDED HER AS HE RELATED THE TERRIFYING LYNX-MAN LEGEND...
VELOZ'S CORPSE HAS DISAPPEARED SINCE THE HANGING LAST NIGHT!
A BAD SIGN! IT MEANS HE'S BEEN ADOPTED BY THE CAT GODS AND HAS BEEN GIVEN NINE LIVES, HEAVEN HAVE MERCY ON OUR VILLAGE NOW!

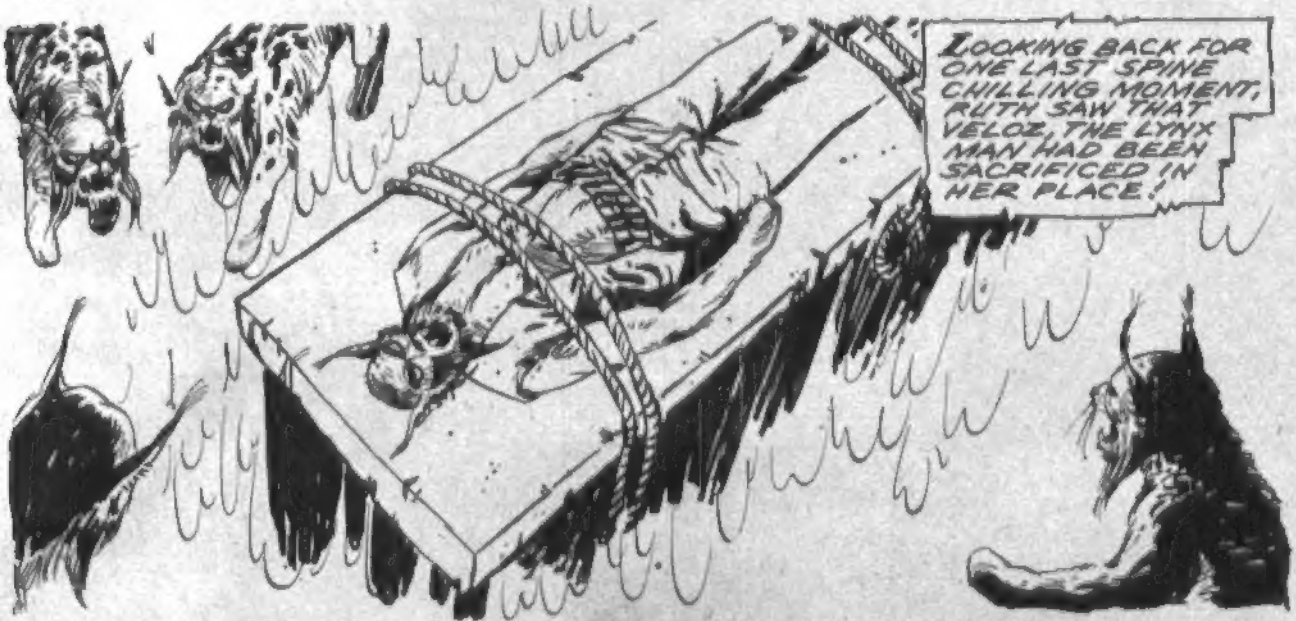
ONE YEAR LATER A VILLAGER WAS MISSED. THEY LATER LEARNED HIS FATE FROM A HORROR STRICKEN SHEPHERD WHO HAD WITNESSED IT!
AIEEE! A MAN BEING SACRIFICED TO THE CAT GODS!
HOW HORRIBLE! CERTAINLY THERE CAN BE NO BASIS IN FACT FOR SUCH A MACABRE TALE?
WHO KNOWS! ACCORDING TO THE LEGEND, ONCE A YEAR, ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF HIS HANGING THE LYNX-MAN MUST CAPTURE ANOTHER SACRIFICIAL VICTIM OR LOSE ONE OF HIS NINE LIVES!
I LEFT MY CART HERE JUST OUTSIDE OF TOWN!
A CART DRAWN BY... WHY, THEY'RE MOUNTAIN LYNX! ARE... ARE THEY SAFE?
THAT'S WHAT THE TRAIN CONDUCTOR MEANT! IF HE FAILS TO GET A VICTIM TONIGHT, HE LOSES THE LAST OF HIS NINE LIVES!
AS SAFE AS I AM, SENORITA! BUT LISTEN TO THE REST OF THE LEGEND! FOR EIGHT YEARS NOW THE LYNX-MAN HAS HAD NO VICTIMS! AFTER THAT FIRST YEAR THE VILLAGERS LOCKED THEMSELVES IN!
YES! YOU SEE HOW DESPERATE HE'D BE TONIGHT! WHY DO YOU LOOK AT ME SO STRANGELY, SENORITA? DO NOT FEAR! OUR DESTINATION IS AROUND THE NEXT TURN!

A FEW MINUTES LATER IN A WILD MOUNTAIN CANYON
IS . IS THIS THE INN THESE RUINS ? I DO NOT UNDERSTAND, SENOR!
THE NAME IS VELOZ, GOLDEN-HAIRED ONE! AND THIS IS MY HOME! COME, LET ME SHOW YOU THE TEMPLE OF THE CAT GODS!
VELOZ? YOU ARE VELOZ, THE LYNX-MAN!
YES! IT WAS I IN CAT FORM WHO LURED YOU FROM THE TRAIN BY STEALING YOUR PURSE!
I'LL TRY TO FIGHT MY WAY THROUGH! MAYBE THE NAILFILE IN MY PURSE WILL HELP!
THE NAIL FILE SUNK RIGHT INTO ITS THROAT! BUT IT WASN'T HURT-- IT DIDN'T EVEN BLEED!
THEN THE LEGEND IS TRUE, AND I AM TO BECOME YOUR VICTIM!
MY PEOPLE WILL NOT LET YOU ESCAPE! THE CAT GODS MUST BE APPEASED TONIGHT!
GET AWAY FROM ME! I--I'LL KILL YOU ANYHOW!
I'M AFRAID NOT-- AT LEAST NOT BY ORDINARY MEANS! COME! I MUST TAKE YOU TO THE SACRIFICIAL ALTAR!
RUTH WAS THEN BOUND HELPLESSLY!
WHY MUST ONE SO BEAUTIFUL BE SACRIFICED? BUT THE CAT GODS MUST BE APPEASED TONIGHT, OR THE CAT PEOPLE ARE DOOMED!

THE SACRIFICIAL FIRE MUST BE BRIGHT AND HOT TONIGHT, CELEBRATING OUR FIRST VICTIM IN EIGHT YEARS!
OOOOH! PLEASE SPARE ME!
SOMEHOW, I HAVE NO ZEST FOR THESE RITES TONIGHT! SHE IS SO YOUNG, SO LOVELY! IF ONLY THERE WERE SOMEONE ELSE BEING SACRIFICED!...PERHAPS THERE CAN BE!
STOP THE CEREMONY AND LISTEN, MY PEOPLE! I HAVE DECIDED ON A CHANGE!
MOST OF YOU HAVE MATES! I, THE LYNX-MAN WILL HAVE THIS ONE, AND GET ANOTHER TO BE SACRIFICED IN HER PLACE!
YOU HEARD! I'VE BEEN LONESOME ALL THESE YEARS AND TONIGHT I FELL IN LOVE WITH YOU! THERE IS STILL A COUPLE OF HOURS UNTIL MIDNIGHT! AGREE TO MY PLAN AND YOU'LL BE SPARED!
I'LL TAKE YOU BACK TO THE VILLAGE! YOU'LL LURE A NEW VICTIM! THEY'RE FAMILIAR WITH MY CAT-FORMS, BUT YOU WON'T BE SUSPECTED! UPON MARRIAGE TO ME, YOU'LL BECOME ONE OF US!
GOOD!
I-I DON'T KNOW! THE HEAT--- BEGINNING TO SEAR ME! I--OOOHH! YES, YES! I'LL AGREE TO ANYTHING IF YOU'LL ONLY FREE ME!
WHAT IS YOUR PLAN?

HURRY! THE CATS SEEM AGAINST YOUR PLAN!
BACK, YOU FOOLISH CREATURES! HOW DARE YOU QUESTION MY DECISION? I'M HALF MAN AND WISER THAN YOU! I'VE SWORN WE'LL GET ANOTHER VICTIM! BACK!
GRRRR

I'M FREE! NOW IF ONLY I CAN GET OUT OF THIS HORRIBLE UNHOLY PLACE WHILE THEY'RE FIGHTING!
GRRRRRRRRGGG
WHAT ARE THEY GOING TO DO TO HIM NOW
STOP! HAVE YOU ALL GONE MAD? WAIT! DON'T ATTACK! WE'LL SACRIFICE THE GIRL! ARGHH!


LOOKING BACK FOR ONE LAST SPINE CHILLING MOMENT, RUTH SAW THAT VELOZ, THE LYNX MAN HAD BEEN SACRIFICED IN HER PLACE!

THERE'S VELOZ'S CART! BUT THE LYNX THAT ONCE DREW IT ARE NOW NOTHING BUT BONES!
A FEW HOURS LATER AS DAWN BROKE...
THIS IS THE MORNING OF GREAT REJOICING, SENORITA! COME TO THE SQUARE AND SEE WHY!
I'M LOST! I'LL NEVER FIND MY WAY BACK TO THE VILLAGE! OOOH! CAT SHADOWS ACROSS THE MOON!
THE END OF THE LYNX-MAN VELOZ! BACK WHERE HE BELONGS, WHERE HIS NATURAL LIFE ENDED NINE YEARS AGO!
IT IS HE, ALL RIGHT! BUT HOW... I DON'T UNDERSTAND!
BACK IN THE VILLAGE AT LAST! BUT WHAT IS GOING ON?
LATER ON THE MORNING TRAIN...
THERE ARE MANY THINGS NONE OF US UNDERSTAND, HERE IN THE MOUNTAIN COUNTRY, SENORITA! IT WOULD BE BEST FOR YOU TO LEAVE THIS PLACE AND NEVER RETURN!
IT'S ALL SO STRANGE! WHO WOULD BELIEVE ME IF I TOLD THEM OF THIS WEIRD ADVENTURE? THANK GOODNESS I'M LEAVING THIS GHASTLY TOWN AT LAST!
THE END